



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

B 891,417

A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
MR ANTHONY PANIZZI, K.C.B.

exp.

X.3.

1 portrait

15s. Od

The Right Hon.

Robert Lowe, M. P.

With the dutiful respects
of the Author.

June 18. 1874.

4
72
P3
C8



UNIV.
OF
RICH.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
SIR ANTHONY PANIZZI

KCB, LL.D., ETC.

Late Principal Librarian, British Museum.

BY

ROBERT COWTAN

AUTHOR OF "MEMORIES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM," ETC.

"A Public Library is of little value to literary men except they have the freest use of it, and a good Librarian."—SIR EGERTON BRYDGES.

London:

PUBLISHED BY ASHER & CO.,
13, BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

BERLIN:
11, UNTER DEN LINDEN.

1873.

[*All Rights Secured.*]



Libraries are as the shrines where all the relics of the ancient saints, full of true virtue, and that without delusion and imposture, are preserved and reposed.—LORD BACON.

08-14-33 JWB

Co

J. WINTER JONES, Esq., V.P.S.A.

PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN

OF

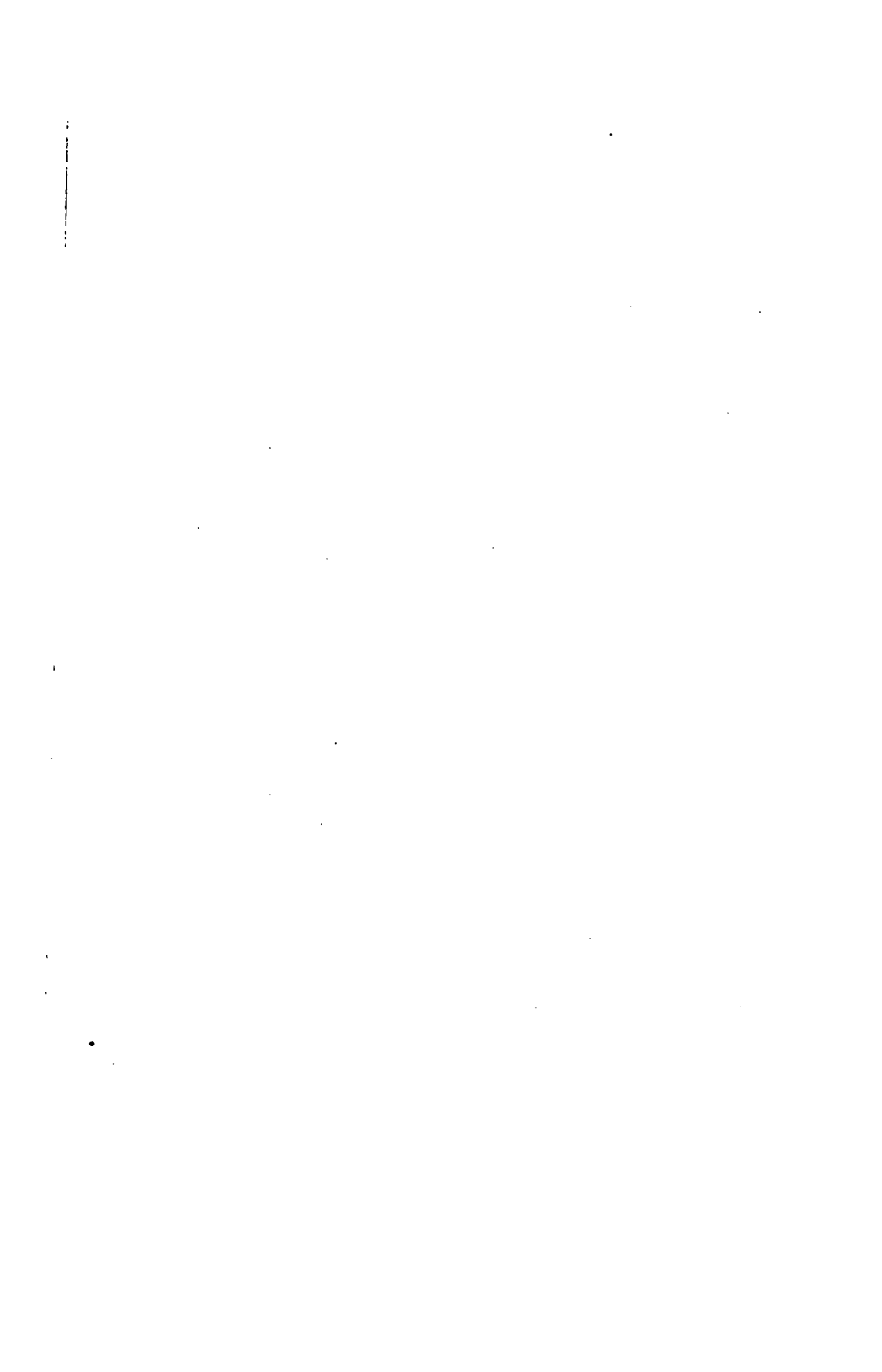
THE BRITISH MUSEUM,

THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

HIS DEVOTED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,

ROBERT COWTAN.



Sir
Grafton
5-17-33
27013



INDEX.

	PAGE
ATHERTON, Sir W.	18
BABER, Rev. H. H.	20, 21
BAKER & FIELDER, Messrs.	73
BEZZI, A. M.	15
BRITISH MUSEUM:—	
Parliamentary Committee, 1835-6	20
Royal Commission, 1848-9	38-45
BROUGHAM, Lord	16, 17, 83
BULLEN, Mr. GEORGE	29
CANNING, Lord	39
CANNON, Mr. C.	73
CARLYLE, Mr. THOMAS	41-43
CARY, Rev. H. F.	20, 22, 23
CLOVIO, GIULIO	36, 37
COBBETT, WILLIAM	19
COLLIER, Mr. PAYNE	33
COPYRIGHT ACT	46-55
CROKER, Mr. WILSON	43
CROMWELL, OLIVER	42
CUNNINGHAM, Mr. P.	44
CURETON, Dr. W.	44
DE MORGAN, Professor	33, 44
DIBDIN, Dr. T. F.	37
DUNDAS, Sir DAVID	38, 83
EDWARDS, Mr. EDWARD	29
ELLESMERE, Lord	38, 65

	PAGE
EVERSLEY, Viscount	39
FIELDER, Mr. HENRY	73
FOSCOLO, UGO	15, 16
GARIBALDI	15
GLADSTONE, Right Hon. W. E.	83
GRENVILLE, Right Hon. THOMAS	34-38, 83
GROLLIER	24
HADON, Messrs.	74
HALLAM, Mr. H.	44
HAWES, Mr. BENJAMIN	20
HOLLAND, Lord and Lady	83
HOUGHTON, Lord	39, 81
HOWLEY, Dr., Archbishop of Canterbury	19, 27
HUME, Mr. JOSEPH	39
JAMESON, Mrs.	69
JEFFREY, Lord	83
JONES, Mr. J. WINTER	31, 47, 72, 73, 80
LAMB, CHARLES	25
LANGDALE, Lord	39
LANSDOWNE, Lord	83
LEFEVRE, Mr. SHAW	39
LOWE, Right Hon. R.	74
LUSH, Sir R.	18
MACAULAY, Lord	22, 83
MAITLAND, Dr.	43
MARTINEAU, Miss H.	69
MELBOURNE, Lord	83
MILNES, Mr. MONCKTON	39
MOORE, Mr. THOMAS	83
NORTON, HON. Mrs	69
OWEN, Professor	67
PAINE, ROGER	24
PALMERSTON, Lord	83
PANIZZI, Sir ANTHONY:—	
Birth and Early Life	12
Escape from the Modenese Government	13
Arrival in England	15
Removal from London to Liverpool	16

INDEX.

vii

PANIZZI, Sir ANTHONY (<i>continued</i>):—	PAGE
Appointment to the Chair of Italian Literature, London University	16
Appointed Extra Assistant-Keeper, British Museum	17
Evidence before Select Committee, 1835-36	20
Public Press on his Appointment to the Keepership	23, 27
Carefulness of Books	25
Admiration for Petrarch's Sonnets, (1501)	26
Opinion on newspaper attacks	28
Applies to the Trustees for Extra-Assistants	28
Promotion to the Keepership	27
Code of Rules for Cataloguing—Opinion of Royal Commissioners upon them	32
Remark on difficulty of Cataloguing	34
Mr. Grenville's Bequest of his Library	34
Account of the Grenville Collection.	35-37
Examinations before the Royal Commission	39-41
Administration of the Copyright Act	46-55
The New Reading-Room	56-61, 68-73
Appointment as Principal Librarian	61
Testimonies to his fitness for that appointment	63-66
Letter on leaving the Library	62
Proposal to separate the Natural History division from the general collections	66, 67
Retirement	68, 74-75
Testimonial from the Library	78
Portrait by Mr. G. F. Watts	78
Letter addressed to the Keepers of Departments on Retirement	80
Testimonies in the House of Lords and Commons on his retirement from the British Museum	81, 82
Pension	74
Degrees conferred upon him	84
List of Works written and edited	84, 85
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, 1835-36	20
PARRY, Mr. Serjeant	29
PEEL, Sir R.	44, 45
PETRARCH, F., Sonnets, (1501)	26
PONTIFEX, Mr.	74
"QUARTERLY REVIEW"	76, 77
READING-ROOM, the New	56-61, 68-73
ROGERS, Mr. SAMUEL	39, 83
ROSETTI, Mr. W. M.	80

	PAGE
ROYAL COMMISSION, 1848-49	38-45
RUSSELL, Earl	81, 83
RUTHERFORD, Lord	39
RYE, Mr. W. B.	72
SHEE, Sir W.	19
SIMONS, Mr. N. W.	30
SMIRKE, Sir R.	70
SMIRKE, Mr. S.	73, 75, 76
SMITH, Rev. SIDNEY	83
SOMERSET, Duke of	39
SOUTHEY, ROBERT	19
STANHOPE, Earl	82, 83
STANLEY, Dr. E., Bishop of Norwich	39
SWINBURNE, Mr. A.	79
TALFOURD, Judge	23
TAUNTON, Lord	82
THACKERAY, Mr. W. M.	83
THOMASON TRACTS	42
WALPOLE, Right. Hon. Mr.	75
WATTS, Mr. G. F.	78
WATTS, Mr. THOMAS	29, 30, 47, 70-72
WOODWARD, Mr. B. B.	18





INTRODUCTORY.

THE greater part of the materials used in the composition of this brief biographical sketch of Sir ANTHONY PANIZZI have already appeared in my late work, entitled *Memories of the British Museum*. I have done little more than to put in one continuous narrative the particulars which are spread over the pages of the work referred to.

I beg that it may be distinctly understood that I have no other authority for anything I have advanced in either this or my former work, than that I have taken the best means within my reach of gleaning the fullest and most reliable particulars of the eventful and successful career of the eminent man under whom it has been my privilege and happiness to serve almost all through my official life.

I am fully persuaded that the sketch — and it must be considered nothing more — I have attempted is both imperfect and fragmentary: it may prove, however, of service to some future biographer of the distinguished librarian, who still resides almost under the shadow of the great Institution he has done so much to popularize and improve.

I beg to record my best acknowledgments to Mr. J. WINTER JONES, the present Principal Librarian, for permission to make free use of much that makes this notice of any value; and also for having kindly allowed me to adorn my humble tribute of affectionate respect with a copy from the most characteristic of the portraits that have been recently taken of Sir ANTHONY PANIZZI, which my friend, Mr. Stephen Thompson, has reproduced by the Woodbury process.

With these few introductory remarks, I leave my work to the kindly judgment of my readers.

MAITLAND PARK, HAMPSTEAD.

APRIL 1, 1873.



SIR ANTHONY PANIZZI,

LL.D., K.C.B., ETC.,

Late Principal Librarian, British Museum.

“SOME are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.” Thus is it written by “the greatest name in literature”—our own Shakspeare; and it is seldom that we find in one man these three characteristics; as there are few indeed of whom it may be said, in the words of the same writer, that “Nature and Fortune joined to make thee great.” We think, however, that the subject of this biographical sketch has some claim to the distinction referred to by our great poet. We have arrived at this conviction after a somewhat close observation, extending over a period of nearly forty years. An official connection with Sir Anthony Panizzi from the year 1835 will give the writer some claim to have studied the character of the distinguished man who has for half a century been identified with this, his adopted country.

We have always felt that it is the glory of

England that honest and able men who, from the political state of their own countries, have been compelled to take refuge here, have not merely enjoyed the bare right of an asylum, but have also had the freest opportunities of exercising their talents and abilities. A remarkable and honourable illustration of this is to be found in the case of the late Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Antonio Panizzi was born at Brescello, in the Duchy of Modena, on the 16th of September, 1797; Modena at that time forming a part of the Cisalpine Republic. After prosecuting his studies at the Lyceum of Reggio, where he remained till about seventeen years of age, he proceeded to the University of Parma. In 1818 he took his degree of Doctor of Laws, quitted the University, and prepared for practice in the superior branches of the legal profession. Born with a love of freedom, he entered with deep interest, and with all the ardour and freshness of a youthful vigour, into the political questions that were at this time agitating Europe, and more particularly as they affected his native country. He was physically a man beyond the average stature, with a head and face that at once indicated power of no common kind. While yet a student, he entered enthusiastically into the revolutionary movement, which ultimately broke out in Naples in 1820, and in Piedmont in the following year. In 1821 his participations

in these movements became known to the Modenese Government through the cowardice of one of the conspirators, and the young Italian reformer judged it prudent to provide for his safety. On its becoming known to our hero that his name had been given up to the authorities, he immediately quitted Brescello, and, when at Cremona, most narrowly escaped seizure. A polite message was brought to him from the Commissary of Police, requesting his attendance; and it was from the house of this functionary that he saved his life by a precipitate flight. The charge against him was tried in his absence; he was found guilty *per contumaciam*, sentenced to death, and the confiscation of his property. He was actually hanged in effigy: the Modenese Government extended their hatred, and, we must add, their impudent assumption so far as to send an account to the young conspirator, on his arrival in England, of *the cost of carrying out the sentence of the law*. This latter fact seemed so astounding, that it was only when we heard from Sir Anthony Panizzi's own lips that it was really done, that we could bring ourselves to believe in such a state of things. Sir Anthony informed the writer that he had carefully preserved the papers, and indeed offered to give him a sight of these interesting State documents. If such a statement had been made in the pages of our contemporary, *Punch*, we might have enjoyed it as a joke, and ascribed it to the rich imaginative genius of our facetious

friend ; but that any Government could possibly proceed to such extremities seems almost beyond belief. We trust that these documents will one day find a safe resting place in the department of manuscripts at the Museum, as certainly nothing more curious could be looked for, even in that rich depository of historical and literary curiosities.

To return, however, to our young hero. He first sought a refuge in Lugano, the capital of the Swiss Canton of Ticino, but was obliged to quit that place on the demand of Austria, and he journeyed on to Geneva. There he was not allowed to remain, for the representatives of Austria, France, and Sardinia demanded the expulsion of himself and other Italian political refugees from the soil of Switzerland. This induced our fugitive, with a few others in similar plight, to proceed to England. Oh ! how one's heart rejoices, and one's bosom glows, at the fact that England is a home for the sons of freedom at all times. What Englishman does not feel proud that our ancestors not only won for us the freedom that we ourselves enjoy ; but that our country stands with open arms to receive into its warm and strong embrace any man, all the world over, who, from a love of liberty, is obliged to leave the land of his nativity. That man deserves not the name of Englishman who does not feel that he would freely offer up his own life, were it needed, to perpetuate

the freedom and security that we enjoy; or who would not offer a friendly greeting to any one who hates despots and loves liberty, come from whatever quarter of the world he may.

The little band of revolutionists, being desirous of taking the route through France to England, but not certain that they would be permitted to do so, sent forward one of their number—M. Aubrey Bezzi, a name well known in England in connection with art for many years—as a pioneer. This gentleman was stopped at Gex, and stripped; but, nothing being found upon him, was ordered to return. Frustrated in their attempts to pass through France, these pilgrims in search of liberty and sanctuary made their way by the Rhine and the Netherlands, and safely arrived in England in the month of May, 1823. Upon arriving in London, they were received with open arms by Ugo Foscolo, their countryman, who, before this, had fled from his native land as they had done, because he would breathe the sharp free air of England. Foscolo laid aside the sword when he gained our shores, and pursued his classic studies peacefully among us, and died in 1827. We remember that Garibaldi, when last in England, went, in company with Sir Anthony, to visit the grave of their great countryman—both poet and patriot—who was buried at Chiswick. His remains have been subsequently removed to the church of Santa

Croce, at Florence, the Westminster Abbey of Italy, where they repose by the side of Dante and Alfieri.

Young Antonio Panizzi remained for some months in London, when, on the recommendation of his friend, Ugo Foscolo, he turned his steps towards Liverpool. There he was welcomed with more than friendly interest by the late Dr. William Shepherd, author of the *Life of Poggio Bracciolini*; and also by William Roscoe, whose *Life of Leo X.* is known to every lover of biography. To both of these gentlemen he was introduced by his friend, Ugo Foscolo, and he was treated by them with the affectionate solicitude of a son. Mr. Panizzi remained at Liverpool several years, and maintained himself by teaching his native language, enjoying at the same time the best society of the place. When the London University was founded in 1828, under the auspices of Lord Brougham, he was invited by the noble and learned lord to occupy the chair of Italian language and literature. He hesitated for a time whether he should give up the agreeable society he was then enjoying at Liverpool, but finally accepted the proffered professorial chair.

This was an important era in the life of Mr. Panizzi, and, we may add also, for literature in England and the world. Verily,—

“ There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.”

Mr. Panizzi's acceptance of the fitting office, tendered so gracefully to the accomplished refugee by Lord Brougham, was the means of introducing a remarkable man to public life ; and, subsequently, of providing a librarian for our national library, who has made it the envy and admiration of the world. It is a highly instructive study to observe how the right man comes upon the scene just at the moment that he is needed ; and this will be seen to have been the case in the subject of this sketch.

In March, 1831, the post of "Extra-Assistant-Keeper" in the department of printed books in the British Museum became vacant ; and, through the support and influence of Lord Brougham, at that time Lord Chancellor, and other influential friends—for at this early period of Mr. Panizzi's English life he had made many friends—he obtained the appointment. He was now in a position in which he might indulge his taste for books, and soon distinguished himself, not less by his indomitable and irrepressible energy than by his high bibliographical attainments. Such are a few of the antecedents of the man who subsequently did so much for the library of the British Museum.

Although the religious creed of a man is no test of his ability, yet, at the time referred to, it was a matter for congratulation that a Roman Catholic should succeed to an appointment made by the three Principal Trustees of the British

Museum, all of whom were Churchmen, and one no less a personage than the Archbishop of Canterbury, "Metropolitan of all England." Toleration of opinion and liberty of speech have made rapid progress during the last half century. Now, happily for our country, a man's religious belief is no obstacle to his attaining some of the very highest offices in the State. We may briefly remark here that Sir Robert Lush, a Baptist, sat on the judicial bench by the side of his late learned Roman Catholic brother, Sir William Shee. Sir William Atherton was a Wesleyan Methodist, and the son of a Wesleyan preacher, but he served his country right well as Attorney-General, which high office he filled with no small amount of dignity and ability. We remember that the late Mr. Bernard Woodward, "Librarian in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen," was formerly an Independent minister; yet he informs us that, when he was an applicant for the librarianship at Windsor Castle, he mentioned this fact to the late Prince Consort, who at once told him that such a circumstance would in no way interfere with the high and responsible appointment that he was seeking, and which he so worthily filled till his lamented decease. The writer of this holds a very humble position in a great national establishment; and he was once informed there by a clergyman, who held a high position in the same establishment, that, had the Archbishop of Canterbury—the late

Dr. Howley—known him to have been a Nonconformist, his Grace would never have given him his appointment. However this may be, it has always been a rule with the writer, through his official life, that, while he would not obtrude either his religious convictions or his political opinions upon others, yet he would never shrink from a frank avowal of either upon all proper occasions. "We should be thankful," remarks Robert Southey, "that our lot has fallen in times when, though there may be many evil tongues and exasperated spirits, there are none who have fire and faggot at command."

At the period at which Mr. Panizzi came to the Museum the library was in a very unsatisfactory condition. The number of volumes did not amount to more than about 200,000, and the deficiencies in every branch were large and important, the annual grant being very small and irregular. The sum voted for the library at this period was only about £200 or £300 per annum. In the spring of 1835 a Parliamentary inquiry was instituted to ascertain the condition, management, and affairs of the Museum. A good deal had been said about the establishment from year to year in the House of Commons, when the small grant for the sustentation of the place was asked for. Mr. Cobbet afforded no little amusement by his occasional attacks upon the Museum, in which he affirmed that all sorts of jobbery and wrong-doings were going on at "the old curiosity

shop in Great Russell Street:”—“that the public money was wasted, and that the establishment was in the hands of a few clergymen, who kept poor curates to do their clerical work at their fat livings, while they were living in idleness and luxury at the Museum.”

The late Mr. Benjamin Hawes, the member for Lambeth, was the chief mover in this Parliamentary Committee, which numbered among its members some of the most influential men of the day. The Rev. Henry Hervey Baber was the Keeper of the Printed Books when this inquiry was going on; and the Rev. Henry Francis Cary, the translator of Dante, the Assistant-Keeper. Mr. Panizzi was one of the “Extra-Assistant-Keepers,” and gave valuable evidence, comprising his experiences in the Continental libraries, and suggesting many important improvements in the library, which were afterwards carried out. We should not omit to mention that Mr. Panizzi made a special tour on the Continent for the purpose of personally inspecting the conduct and management of foreign libraries; and that, with a view of aiding the inquiry, he collected a vast mass of highly interesting and important particulars respecting them, which may be seen in the appendices attached to the report and evidence of the Commission. These documentary particulars extend over more than fourteen hundred printed folio pages; and we may safely affirm that this

is the most valuable and reliable mass of information on the national library at that period that is anywhere to be found. One of the recommendations of the report to the House of Commons by this Committee was to the effect that no one should continue to hold office at the Museum who had any other appointment. It was this that led to the resignation of Mr. Baber, who had well and faithfully served the trustees for thirty years; and who began to feel that the comparative repose and grateful quietude of a country rectory were more to be desired than to remain in his post at the Museum, where he would have to superintend the carrying out in the library the recommendations of the Committee. He accordingly resigned, and retired to his living at Streatham; where, as a clergyman, he was as successful in the discharge of his sacred duties as he had been for so many years a faithful servant of the public.

The resignation of Mr. Baber made an important vacancy in the library of the Museum; and the appointment of his successor gave occasion to no small amount of misapprehension and much angry feeling among certain parties more immediately concerned, and was also made the subject of free criticism by the public press. As this is a very important event in the career of Mr. Panizzi, we are the more desirous of putting the question before our readers

with as much fairness and truthfulness as we are able.

It will be remembered that, at the retirement of Mr. Baber from the Museum, Mr. Cary was the "Assistant-Keeper of the Department of Printed Books." This gentleman—whom Charles Lamb designates "the pleasantest of clergymen"—very naturally expected to succeed Mr. Baber in the Keepership of the department. The great literary attainments, accurate scholarship, and high social character of Mr. Cary, fully justified him in looking confidently for the promotion he sought. Unhappily, the state of his health, occasioned mainly by his grief at the recent loss of his wife, was such that it was deemed by the trustees, *upon public grounds only*, not desirable to confer upon him the appointment he so much coveted, and so richly merited. The amiable and accomplished translator of Dante was, as might have been expected, most acutely affected by the loss of the appointment. He addressed an able and characteristic letter of earnest remonstrance to Lord Chancellor Cottenham, which was published in the *Times* of July, 1837. This dignified and indignant letter is a good specimen of the style of Mr. Cary, and fully justifies the high eulogium Lord Macaulay pronounced upon his translation of the divine poem of the great Florentine, of which he says:—"I turn with pleasure to Mr. Cary's translation. There is no other version

which so fully proves that the translator is himself a man of poetical genius. It is difficult to determine whether the author deserves more praise for his intimacy with the language of Dante, or for the extraordinary mastery over his own." Talfourd, in his *Final Memorials of Charles Lamb*, speaking of Mr. Cary, remarks, that he was a man "whose sweetness of disposition and manner would have prevented a stranger from guessing that he was the poet who had rendered the adamant poetry of Dante into English with kindred power."

The appointment of Mr. Panizzi to the Keepership of the Printed Books was so freely discussed by the public press, and such a topic of criticism in conversation at the period, that we may be pardoned if we state the exact particulars of this transaction. We know for a fact that no application for the appointment was made by him *until he heard from Mr. Cary's own lips* that the Principal Trustees would not give him the appointment. We, ourselves, heard Mr. Panizzi remark to Mr. Cary that that being the case, the question was simply whether a stranger should be appointed. This led him to write at once to the Principal Trustees, urging his claims, he being next in seniority to Cary; and the result was his appointment to the Keepership. We have always been of opinion that the real cause of opposition and unkindly criticism of Mr. Panizzi, in the public press, was the fact that

he was a *foreigner*. Had he been an Englishman, he would have been accepted at once, as he was undoubtedly a man of great ability; and possessed, moreover, singular qualifications for taking the headship of a great library.

Having said thus much as to the real facts of Mr. Panizzi's appointment to be Keeper of the Printed Books—and those who remember the fierce and constant attacks 'that were made upon him at the time, and long afterwards, will not deem the reference needless—we may say that he entered upon his work with all the strength and energy of a young and vigorous mind. The removal of the library from Montague House to the building recently erected for its reception, gave immediate scope for the exemplification of Mr. Panizzi's plans for the improvement of the national collection. We remember the morning that the first load of books was removed from the old to the new library; it was an eventful day in the history of the Printed Book department. The fine collection made by Mr. Cracherode, and bequeathed by him to the nation, was the first that was placed in the new library. As load after load came up, the Keeper himself began to classify them for their new home. This collection contains some of the most beautiful volumes that ever came from the printing press; and among them are rare tomes bound by Grollier, and not a few were from the hand of Roger

Paine, whose cunning fingers seem to have been formed for the art in which he so much excelled. It was our pleasant duty, on the occasion, to affix the new press-marks to the volumes as they were placed upon the shelves by Mr. Panizzi; and we remember well, at this distant period, the rapturous exclamations of the Keeper, as the fine books passed one by one through his hands. The hand is a wonderfully expressive part of our complex body; and to see beautiful books gently lifted and delicately handled, as if they were the choicest flowers, or the most exquisite specimens of art, led us at that early period of our Museum service reverently to regard the precious volumes. Nothing roused the anger and stirred the indignation of Mr. Panizzi more than when he saw books carelessly handled, or allowed to fall to the ground. He would, if within hearing, leave any work upon which he might happen to be engaged, when the crashing sound of the falling of a book was heard in the library. We have known him administer reproof, as he only could do, many a time to careless fellows who had not the same reverence for books as that cherished by the great librarian. It is said of Charles Lamb that, on one occasion, he was seen to kiss one of the small folios of his favourite old authors. No lover of books will be surprised at this: the covering of a choice volume will produce upon some men very much the same feeling

that possessed Romeo when, gazing upon Juliet, he exclaimed:—

“O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek!”

The national library contains among its choicest varieties an exquisitely beautiful little volume of Petrarch's *Sonnets*, printed at Venice, by Aldus, in 1501. It is printed on vellum of the softest texture, and is remarkable, not only as the first Italian book printed in italic type, but also as having been the property of Isabella d'Este, who married Gian-Francesco Gonzaga, Marquis of Mantua, whose arms are emblazoned on the lower margin of this beautiful little volume. We have seen Mr. Panizzi introduce this gem both of printing and binding to many distinguished visitors—among them to our beloved Queen—and point out its varied beauties. We heard him say, upon one of these occasions, that if anything would induce him to rob the library, that volume would be the one of all others that he would select. That he did not elope with this casket of love songs of his great countryman may be ascertained by any visitor by a reference to one of the show-cases in the King's Library, where the book may be seen by anybody who will take the trouble to look it out from among the rich and rare companions by which it is surrounded.

But lest we rhapsodize too much upon

matters which may not be so interesting to others as to ourselves, let us come back to the subject of our sketch, and say that the catalogues of the various collections at the time of Mr. Panizzi's appointment were in a most unsatisfactory condition. They had been drawn up at various times, and under all sorts of different rules, producing no small confusion. To reduce these to one catalogue, with one general plan, needed the head and hand of a master; and such a man was then at the head of the national library. To suggest, organise, and superintend all the manifold new arrangements involved a vast amount of labour; but it was found that the new Keeper was fully equal to any demands that might be made upon him. It is a matter of regret that, at this early period of Mr. Panizzi's administration of the library, the press was almost unanimous in their attacks upon him. Partisans of Mr. Cary ever and anon fed the fire that was kept up against him from every quarter; and we should not faithfully chronicle the doings of these days did we not mention that his greatest enemies were "those of his own house." Mr. Panizzi's appointment was signed by two out of the three Principal Trustees—viz., the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons; the Archbishop of Canterbury—Dr. Howley—having filled up an appointment in the name of Mr. Cary. This significant fact will account for much of the

opposition that Mr. Panizzi met with in the early part of his career. He, however, happily outlived all the abuse that was heaped upon him; and it is singular that every public attack upon him was the means of bringing out some distinctive trait in his character, which, in the end, only added to his fame. We remember to have heard him remark, on one occasion, when a most unjust and malignant onslaught was made upon him, that *a newspaper attack is galling for a few days, but in a week it is all over and forgotten.*

As soon as he was promoted to the Keepership, the new librarian set to work in right earnest upon the duties that devolved upon him. The removal of the library was the first thing done; and this was effected without the readers being interfered with in the smallest degree. As we remarked just now, Mr. Panizzi began the arrangement and classifying of the books as they came from Montague House. He soon found, however, that he could not, without neglecting other matters, attend to this attractive work.

The then existing staff of the department was not by any means equal to the requirements needed in carrying out the plans for the re-arrangement of the books in the new library, and the revision of the catalogues of the various collections. Mr. Panizzi immediately applied to the Trustees for the necessary additional help,

and several gentlemen were at once engaged as "temporary-assistants." One of these was the late Mr. Thomas Watts, who had been long known in the Reading-room as a man of great attainments as a linguist, as well as for his extensive knowledge of general literature. Mr. Watts's subsequent career in the national library abundantly justified the selection for the special work for which his services were required. Another of these temporary-assistants was Mr. George Bullen, who, at the death of Mr. Watts, succeeded him as Superintendent of the Reading-room, and who is so well known now for his ready and cheerful help to any reader who may be desirous of making use of his able services. Mr. Bullen was spoken of by his chief, in his evidence before the Royal Commissioners, as "one of my best assistants." Mr. Sergeant Parry, the present well-known advocate, was another of these temporary-assistants, and laboured most successfully in the library for many years upon the new catalogue; until, in 1843, he left the service of the Trustees for the more prominent and lucrative attractions of the bar. Mr. Edward Edwards, afterwards first Librarian of the Manchester Free Library, was another of the little band of literary worthies who did so much, by their unobtrusive labours, to make our national library what it now is, and who are justly entitled to grateful remembrance. Mr. Edwards is a man of considerable ability, and is the author of many

interesting and valuable works; one of which is, *Lives of the Founders of the British Museum; with Notices of its Chief Augmenters and other Benefactors—1570-1870*. This gentleman retired from the service of the trustees in 1846, and is still engaged in the pursuit of his favourite bibliographical and historical studies. We would not omit to mention yet another of these helpers to Mr. Panizzi, in his early administration of the library. Mr. Nicholas Simons was the fifth of these "extra-assistants," and was a man devotedly attached to books. This gentleman was very highly esteemed by his numerous colleagues in the Museum, to the day of his retirement in 1870. He is known to the literary world by his industrious and careful elucidation of the vexed question of the authorship of "Junius."

To Mr. Watts was confided the duty of classification and re-arrangement of the books, as they were removed from Montague House; and, in the performance of this duty, every book passed separately under his eye. Mr. Watts had a wondrous memory, and once told the writer of this sketch that he never forgot the title-page of any work that had passed through his hands. It was this marvellous faculty that gave him such a comprehensive, ready, and exact acquaintance with the contents of the national collection. He, with Mr. Winter Jones, rendered important help in noting deficiencies that were subsequently embodied in the celebrated Parliamentary paper,

drawn up by Mr. Panizzi, as a ground and basis for asking a special grant from the House of Commons of £10,000 a year for ten years, to supply these deficiencies; so that our national library might be rendered worthy of the nation, and stand out before the world first and foremost among the great libraries of Europe.

These, with Mr. Winter Jones, the present Principal Librarian—who entered the library as an assistant before its removal from Montague House, and who possesses a minute, exact, and intimate knowledge of the Department of which he was for many years the Keeper—are the men who rendered the very greatest help to Mr. Panizzi in his Herculean labours; but, after all, it was upon his own broad Atlas shoulders that the affairs of the library rested for so many troublous years, when everything that was effected had to be wrung from those who sat in high places, both at the Museum and at the Treasury. Mr. Panizzi's greatest opponents were those immediately above him. His promotion to the Keepership was looked upon with jealousy and distrust by some of his fellow-officers; and among the Board of Trustees were men—we could name them, but we would rather pass them over—who were "Tories of the old school;" men who resisted any suggestions for the enlargement and improvement of the library as an unnecessary and "*foreign*" innovation. It has often occurred to the writer that a curious chapter

might be written upon "Museum quarrels." It is rather an attractive, though delicate subject; but it would make an interesting chapter in some future reminiscences of the national library.

In spite of opposition, both from within the Museum, and occasional outbursts of malignant grumbling from the press, Mr. Panizzi held on his way. He called his little band of bibliographers around him, and drew up a code of rules for cataloguing, that, for minuteness and comprehensiveness, are not to be equalled. This is no extravagant assertion, made by one who has lived nearly forty years in the library, and may be deemed partial; but it is the deliberate judgment of the Royal Commissioners before referred to. They say, in their Report to Parliament: "We have had occasion, in the course of our inquiry, to ascertain the prevalence among many persons of an impression which attributes to Mr. Panizzi, not only the adoption of a plan for a catalogue, of which those parties, on various grounds, presently to be noticed, disapprove, but also the delay of which they complain in the execution of the plan so adopted. It becomes incidentally our duty to do him justice in these particulars. From what we have already stated, it will appear that, with respect to the system and form of the catalogue, whatever be its defects, Mr. Panizzi can be charged with nothing further than the constant approval and acceptance of one leading principle—that of *fulness and accuracy*—

suggested on high authority, adopted by an able superior and predecessor in office, indicated by the statutes of the Museum, and enforced by the deliberate sanction of the Trustees, and the recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee."

It is well understood that those who know least about cataloguing are just the persons who make the greatest noise about what they term "the unnecessary delay" of those engaged upon the compilation of that at the Museum. The late Professor De Morgan, who was as eminent for his attainments as a bibliographer as for those that distinguished him as a mathematician, says:—"I am perfectly satisfied of this—that one of the most difficult things that one can set himself to do is to describe a book correctly." Mr. Payne Collier, a man well known wherever English literature is valued, once thought it to be his duty to make a public complaint against the Museum authorities for the delay in the completion of the catalogue. He volunteered to furnish specimens of how the work should be done. In the five-and-twenty titles that he furnished there were no less than thirteen different kinds of error, and an average of two blunders in each title. In fact, Mr. Winter Jones, to whom these titles were referred for examination by Mr. Panizzi at the time, said "that they contained *every error that could possibly be committed.*" Oh! one is weary of hearing what are deemed by some smart things that are said about the

Museum catalogue; there are, however, those who are prepared to wait patiently, and who will listen to the pregnant words of Mr. Panizzi—this “Napoleon of librarians,” as he has been denominated—who says:—“Deeply impressed as I am myself with the difficulties often alluded to” [in reference to the work of making a catalogue], “*I am still more impressed with the difficulty of communicating to others an equal sense of those difficulties.*” The subject is very attractive, but we forbear, and return to the personal history of Mr. Panizzi.

The year 1847 was a notable one in the annals of the Museum, and afforded a fine illustration of the high social position and influence that Mr. Panizzi had attained. About a year and a half before the death of the Right Hon. Thomas Grenville, that worthy gentleman and able public servant had promised Mr. Panizzi to bequeath his splendid library to the British Museum; and on the 28th of October, 1845, by a codicil to his will, he carried out this noble purpose. There is no doubt as to the fact that the Keeper of the Printed Books of this period was the man, more than all others, who induced Mr. Grenville to present his magnificent collection of books to the British nation. Some idea may be formed of the literary value of this library by referring to its pecuniary value. It consists of 20,240 volumes, forming about 16,000 works; which cost upwards of £54,000, and would realise now in the market probably double that amount. It is believed that

the binding of this sumptuous collection cost more than £56,000; so that the money value of such a presentation amounted to £100,000. For a full and able account of the literary value of this unique collection, the reader is referred to that given by Mr. Panizzi, whose familiarity with the books before they were bequeathed to the Museum enabled him, perhaps, beyond all others, to speak of them in terms commensurate with their value and importance.

The Grenville library fills the room leading from the grand entrance-hall at the Museum, with the statues of Shakspeare and Sir Joseph Banks on either side of the door. This library contains some of the very rarest editions of the Bible, for which "Book of books" Mr. Grenville had the greatest reverence, and made it, above all others, the volume of his daily counsel. Rare editions of the Latin classics abound; the unique *complete* copy of Azzoguidi's first edition of Ovid was considered by Mr. Grenville himself as the boast of his collection. All the rarest editions of our English poets are there included; among them the first and second editions of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, by Caxton; together with the only known copy of an edition of the same work, printed in 1498, by Wynkyn de Worde. Here, also, may be seen a magnificent copy of the first folio of Shakspeare, which is not surpassed by any copy of that rare volume that has yet been discovered. He religiously collected all the rarest

editions of the translations of the Scriptures in the vernacular tongue. His *unique* fragment of Tyndale and Roy's New Testament, in English, is known all the world over as the most precious relic that escaped the fiery persecutions of the period at which it was printed. Anything in the shape of a book, however costly, which could illustrate in any way the history of our country, found a ready purchaser in Mr. Grenville. His collection on the divorce of Henry the Eighth is unrivalled; while his rare volumes on the gathering, advance, and defeat of the "Invincible Armada," afford the historian all that could be desired. In early voyages and travels, no other library can boast of being so rich. While the venerable and large-hearted fine old English gentleman was justly proud of the literature of his own country, he was not unmindful of that of other nations. The best copies of the best works issued in Spain and Italy are all to be found in his library. "But"—Mr. Panizzi says of them—"where there is nothing common, it is almost depreciating a collection to enumerate a few books as rare." It would be as easy as it would be delightful to give the names only of the rare editions of authors that are included in this princely bequest to the nation, but time and space would alike fail us. Mention, however, must be made of the *Giulio Clovio*; which, though neither a "printed book" nor a "manuscript," is probably the art-gem of the collection.

It is sumptuously arrayed in imperial purple velvet, and is preserved in a blue morocco case. Happy are the eyes that are permitted to gaze upon this beautiful work of art! Lest we should be deemed extravagant in our praise, let us quote Dr. Dibdin's judgment of the work from his "*Bibliographical Decameron*," where he says of it:—"A more lovely and interesting, and at the same time generally unknown, treasure can scarcely enrich the cabinet of the most illustrious collector." This was said of it when it was the property of a private gentleman; but now, through the benevolence of that venerated man, it is the common property of the English people. The reader will thank us for quoting the concluding remarks of Mr. Panizzi's account of this collection, and of its founder:—"During his life time, Mr. Grenville's library was most liberally rendered accessible to any person, however humble his condition of life, who could show the least cause for asking the loan of any of his precious volumes. By bequeathing the whole to his country, Mr. Grenville has secured to literary men, even after his death, that assistance, so far as relates to the use of his books, which he so generously bestowed on them in every way during his long and dignified career—the career of a man of high birth, distinguished for uniting to a powerful and cultivated intellect a warm and benevolent heart." The bust of this venerable and accomplished man,

that adorns the room in which the unrivalled collection rests, is the graceful offering of Sir David Dundas to the memory of one he loved and honoured. If we are blamed for this digression upon Mr. Grenville's library, in an account of Mr. Panizzi, let us remind our readers that, but for that gentleman, in all probability, this splendid collection of books would, at the death of its founder, have come to the auctioneer's hammer. We are not saying anything but the truth when we affirm that to Mr. Panizzi the country is mainly indebted for this invaluable addition to the national library.

We pass on now, as briefly as we can, to speak of some of the salient points of Mr. Panizzi's subsequent career at the Museum. In 1848 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the affairs of the British Museum. Twelve years had passed away since the Parliamentary inquiry had ended; and thirty-six years had elapsed since the first of these Imperial investigations had opened up to the world that which was going on in the comparative quietude of Great Russell Street. This Commission, though appointed to inquire into the *whole* management of the Museum, confined its investigations chiefly to the Department of Printed Books, and mainly directed its inquiries to questions relating to the Catalogue. It was composed of men eminent in the literary and political world, and had for its chairman the late Lord Ellesmere, who, as Lord

Francis Egerton, had acted as a member of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1835-36; and was, moreover, perfectly conversant with the affairs of the Museum. The names of the Commissioners will at once indicate the high character of such an inquiry. We mention them only, and abstain from comments of our own. They were:—Lord Seymour, now Duke of Somerset; Lord Canning, afterwards Governor-General of India; Dr. Stanley, late Bishop of Norwich; Lord Langdale, Master of the Rolls; Sir Charles Lemon; the late Lord Wrottesley; Sir Philip Egerton; Sir Roderick Murchison; Andrew Rutherford, Lord Advocate of Scotland; Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P.; Samuel Rogers, the poet; and Mr. Monckton Milnes, now Lord Houghton. Such a galaxy of “good men and true” carried with them the entire confidence of men of all parties. We well remember the first meeting of the Commissioners, held at the Museum, on Saturday, July 10, 1847. Mr. Panizzi left his quiet study in the library, with a calm and dignified step, to confront, before the Royal inquisitors, a host of hostile forces that were opposed to him. We never remember to have been more impressed with the fact, that a man of presence and power has a wondrous influence upon an august assembly, even before he opens his lips. We are not revealing any secrets when we say, that it was well known, both at the

Museum and out of doors, that it was the intention of a herd of small, and some of them contemptible men, to assail the eminent librarian who had done so much in making its national library the envy and admiration of the world. It has ever been the case, that a man of intellectual calibre beyond his fellows must make up his mind to persecution. Mr. Panizzi had, for many years, been the butt of men, who had, through the press, made him the object of their reiterated and persistent attacks. He was, however, equal to the occasion; and one of the first announcements made by him, at the commencement of the inquiry, was this:—"I have a request to make of the Commissioners, which is, that they will examine the complainers. I have had the honour of laying before the Commissioners the names of parties complaining. I want those gentlemen who make complaints anonymously to *come to this table, and state the facts that they have to complain of, and I pledge myself to answer their complaints.* I shall be very sorry if they do not make their complaints here." No one but a man who thoroughly believed in himself would have thrown down the gauntlet, and delivered such a challenge. It is only fair to his opponents to say that this challenge was very extensively accepted; and Mr. Panizzi was thus enabled fully to explain his motives, and justify his proceedings, to the full and entire satisfaction of the tribunal before which he was arraigned. No man in

England, who has a just cause to plead, will ever plead in vain; and be he never so reviled, our countrymen are always ready to hear an explanation, and as ready to vindicate and honour an unjustly reviled man. It is most amusing to read the various charges and allegations brought against the library and its librarian. Had there been but one side of the question stated, it would have been abundantly evident that the worst possible abuses were permitted to flourish at the Museum, and that men the most incompetent were placed over it. The library, however, came in for the largest share of abuse; and its librarian was the greatest sinner in the establishment.

The Commissioners encouraged every comer; and, perhaps, wasted too much time in listening to some of the many frivolous complaints that were made. Among the more conspicuous opponents to Mr. Panizzi may be mentioned a name that stands second to none in English contemporary literature, and to whom none will refuse to do honour—Mr. Thomas Carlyle. This gentleman, whose likes and dislikes are known to be strong, had spoken of Mr. Panizzi in his characteristic manner, and that not the most complimentary, as to his being a “foreigner,” and a “quack.” No man can help being born in a foreign country; but the charge of quackery had to be borne out and substantiated. Long before the Royal Commission was thought of, Mr. Carlyle had permission

(as one to whom such a privilege could be well accorded), to examine in the library, away from the reading-room, the Thomason collection of Tracts, that he might select materials for his *Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell*. Mr. Carlyle himself, in speaking of this collection, says:—"They are called King's Pamphlets; and, in value, I believe the whole world could not parallel them. If you were to take all the collections of works on the Civil War, of which I have ever heard notice, I believe you would not get a set of works so valuable as these." We believe the real cause of Mr. Carlyle's anger was, that each of these volumes, containing from ten to a dozen separate tracts, was not gone over by a Museum official, and those relating to Cromwell selected for him, so that he could at once set to work, and make the necessary extracts required for his work. If such assistance had been accorded to Mr. Carlyle, it would hardly have been fair to have denied similar help to any other reader in search of particular information; who, though not equal in reputation to the great essayist and historian, might yet consider himself entitled to the same privileges. The writer took part in looking out the volumes of the period required for Mr. Carlyle; and it was most pleasurable, in the humblest way, to have furnished this distinguished man with any materials helpful to putting Oliver Cromwell before his countrymen and the world as one of the greatest men who have ever ruled

England. Mr. Carlyle never entered the old reading-room (that is, the one occupied by readers, preceding the splendid room now provided), without getting a headache. Did not age, with its attendant infirmities, keep our greatest and most original thinker near his own fireside, the luxurious accommodation now provided could not be objected to by the most "thin-skinned sort of student," which our venerable essayist called himself. Those who are fond of the authoritative utterances of Mr. Carlyle should read the evidence he gave before the Royal Commissioners. A host of less distinguished, but regular frequenters of the reading-room appeared, one after the other, at the table of the Commissioners, with all sorts of complaints against the library and its librarian. To this must be added the evidence of some of Mr. Panizzi's own colleagues in other departments of the establishment which, altogether, would have made any ordinary man tremble. When the time came for Mr. Panizzi to reply to these charges, and vindicate the course he had pursued, it was most amusing to see how these grumblers were, one by one, answered, and the objections disposed of.

It is only just, however, to state, that though there was a formidable array of opponents against Mr. Panizzi, he was found fully equal to the occasion, and was supported by the evidence of such men as the late Mr. Wilson Croker; Dr. Maitland, Librarian at Lambeth Palace; Mr.

Peter Cunningham ; Dr. Cureton, the Royal Trustee; Professor de Morgan; Mr. Hallam, the historian, and one of the elected Trustees of the Museum; and other names that are well known in literary matters. The Commissioners expressed their admiration at the triumphant manner in which Mr. Panizzi met and answered every one of the many and minutest charges made against him. He was examined at great length no less than eighteen times; and his evidence is a rich treat of practical good sense and straightforward point. In their subsequent report the Commissioners recorded their opinion of the man in the following words:—“Whatever be the judgment formed on points at issue, the minutes of evidence must be admitted to contain frequent proofs of the acquirements and abilities, the manifestation of which in subordinate office led to Mr. Panizzi's promotion to that which he now holds under circumstances which, in our opinion, founded on documentary evidence, did credit to the Trustees of the day.” It should be mentioned that the Trustees, who met to consider the report of the Commissioners, expressed their satisfaction at the general approval accorded to them. This graceful expression on the part of the Trustees, embodied in a Parliamentary paper, was from the pen of the late Sir Robert Peel, the manuscript draft of which was found about his person after his fatal accident. We wish that our space would allow of some

quotations from this able and elegant paper; alas! the latest, probably, of the lamented statesman, who took so deep and sincere an interest in the affairs of the Museum, as one of the foremost educational institutions of the country. We may be allowed to transcribe the concluding paragraph of this interesting and authoritative document. It is as follows:—"The best proof which the Trustees can give of the spirit in which they have received the report of the Commissioners, and of their earnest desire to rectify whatever may be found justly open to censure, and to improve whatever may be capable of improvement, is the resolution which they have this day adopted: to appoint a Committee to consider the several suggestions contained in the report; with a view to the adoption of such of them as shall appear to the General Board calculated to promote the satisfactory administration of the affairs of the Museum, and the widest dissemination of the benefits which it is designed to confer."

The Royal Commission, of which we have been speaking, was an authoritative inquiry into the conduct and management of one of our greatest institutions supported out of the public revenue; and we cannot but think that such an inquiry was much needed, and has issued in great good. We humbly consider that the men who were the means of instituting this Royal inquiry, and of conducting it to a successful issue, deserve well of their countrymen.

No account of the career of Sir Anthony Panizzi should omit to mention the onerous and disagreeable position in which he found himself, as Keeper of the Printed Books, with reference to the administration of the Copyright Act. Up to 1850 the responsibility of seeing that the clauses of the Copyright Act, so far as regards the delivery of publications at the Museum, rested with the Secretary. It was found, however, that the Act was much evaded by the publishers; or, if that term seem too harsh towards a body of men to which we are strongly attached by long and pleasant intimacies, we may say that it had never been sufficiently brought under the notice of "the trade." In the latter part of 1850, the Trustees transferred to Mr. Panizzi, by power of attorney, the difficult and unthankful duty of enforcing, in their name, the provisions of the Act. He immediately made himself master of the subject, and at once set himself to enforce the delivery of all publications to which the Museum was entitled with the same earnestness, firmness, and intelligent zeal that had hitherto marked his career in the service of the public. Every publisher was informed, by a notice sent to him, what the Act required as to the delivery of publications at the British Museum. These notices were called "Final Circulars;" so that when such a document had been sent to publishers without results, it was believed at the Museum, that either the firm to whom

they were addressed treated the matter as beneath their notice, or that there was a design to withhold the publications to which the Museum was entitled by an Act of Parliament. Mr. Panizzi did not confine his attention to the London publishers; but he made a tour through most of our large provincial towns, with a view of ascertaining for himself to what extent country publishers had not complied with the Act. The peregrinations of the energetic Librarian extended to Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In the latter place he was a little puzzled, especially in those towns in the Principality where the vernacular is almost the only medium of intercourse. He was quite a match for an Irishman, or even a Scotchman, but the Welshman fairly foiled him. We remember, on his return from these bibliographical pilgrimages, how sorely he was puzzled by some of the Welsh publishers writing to him in the language to which they were born. But for the assistance of Mr. Winter Jones—a good Welsh scholar—and the help of the late Mr. Watts—who, to his other accomplishments, added the almost perfect knowledge of the Welsh language—the Librarian would have been at a disadvantage. Some one more immediately engaged with these investigations suggested to his chief that he should reply to these Cambrian publishers in Italian. As, however, in these latter days the gift of tongues can hardly be looked for, we must get on

with our neighbours with the best helps we can.

After due notice had been given, defaulters were dealt with as they deserved; and the result was that, in 1853, the number of articles delivered at the Copyright Office amounted to no less than 14,081; the numbers in the preceding year being 13,935; while those for 1851 amounted only to 9,871. From this time the number of articles delivered steadily increased; and the publishers, both London and Provincial, became fully aware that the administration of the Act was now in the hands of a man who would see that the rights of the Trustees were properly attended to; and also that the "pilgrims of research" in the Reading-room should no longer have just ground of complaint at not finding in the library works to which the Museum was entitled, under the Copyright Act.

It is not to be wondered at that publishers who came under Mr. Panizzi's notice as defaulters were a little angry at being reminded of their negligence. We should say here that some of the first houses in the trade had to blame their own assistants far more than Mr. Panizzi for the annoyance they were put to, inasmuch as it was mostly owing to the culpable neglect of a clerk or a shopman that the provisions of the Act were not carefully complied with. The name of "Panizzi" was well known in Paternoster Row; and old friends there, when meeting us "out of business

hours," have often inquired of us a few particulars of this "foreign gentleman," who was so desirous of cultivating their more immediate acquaintance. One gentleman, who has been known to us for many years, and who is, moreover, an author of no mean powers, as well as a publisher, unfortunately came before the public as a defaulter to some considerable extent. Summonses were issued, and the matter came on for investigation at one of our best known police offices. The magistrate who presided was one in whom courtesy and perfect knowledge of his functions are combined. An eminent member of the Bar appeared for the defaulter, and the case excited the greatest possible interest among "the trade." There were about thirty cases of default; and, as each came on for decision, penalties were enforced for the non-delivery. Mr. Panizzi was in the witness-box for some time; and we never heard any public man so bullied as was the Keeper of the Printed Books on that day. The "learned brother" before referred to must have had a rather large "retaining fee," as the abuse and annoyance to the representative of the Trustees abundantly indicated. The magistrate on the occasion was calm and dignified; and possessed a perfect knowledge of the law, as touching the matters in dispute. This amiable and accomplished gentleman still adorns the magisterial bench, and has been rewarded by a well-earned and richly-deserved

title, in recognition of his great ability and high character.

All the cases against this publisher were established, and small penalties inflicted for each non-delivery. The day was memorable in the Copyright Office of the British Museum; and was followed, for some months, by a large amount of work, arising from the continuous delivery of publications. We have the satisfaction of knowing also that the eminent publisher, against whom these proceedings were reluctantly taken, has himself declared that the public have good cause to congratulate themselves that they had a public servant who would so faithfully and energetically enforce their rights. It should be understood that no imputation whatever is to be drawn from what has been said, that the publications due to the Museum from this publisher were withheld from any fraudulent motive, but most probably arose from negligence.

A high legal authority has justly observed that—"If an Act of Parliament gives the public certain rights, no one is justified in complaining if those rights are enforced; least of all should those be considered obnoxious to blame, who are bound by their duty to enforce them. What would be said of the officers of the British Museum, were they to allow the rights of the public to be lost, or to become obsolete? Indeed, what is said by those who do not find any particular copyright book they may want in

the library of the British Museum? They say, the book is due under the Copyright Act, and you have neglected your duty in not enforcing its delivery. When the delivery of books *is* enforced, do the same people say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant?' . . . If it be desirable that a copy of every publication in the United Kingdom should be deposited in the British Museum, there are but two courses by which this object can be attained: gratuitous delivery by the booksellers, or purchase out of the public purse. At present the former course is that ordered to be adopted by Act of Parliament; and it is extremely ill-advised—to use the mildest terms—to attempt to evade that order, and then to vilify the officer whose duty it may happen to be to enforce obedience to it." . . . "I also," says this astute lawyer, "look to such a record as that of the Copyright Office of the British Museum, conducted as the business of it now is, as affording most curious and interesting particulars of the development of the publishing trade of the United Kingdom."

These apt and honest remarks, printed in one of our leading literary journals, were called forth by a rather angry and very one-sided statement put forth by an eminent publishing firm in Edinburgh during the time these necessary proceedings were taken by the Museum authorities.

While publishers were complaining, and the newspapers were recording almost every week

some new case of prosecution under the Copyright Act, publications were pouring into the Copyright Office at the Museum at such a rate as to require additional assistance in that important department of the library. The printed Parliamentary returns will show the increase of articles delivered at the Museum, in consequence of the zeal and firmness with which Mr. Panizzi enforced the rights of the Trustees, and making the Library as complete as possible, as to all books published in Great Britain and Ireland. One branch of Mr. Panizzi's duty, as Keeper of the Printed Books, with reference to the Copyright Act, was more difficult of accomplishment than any other: and that was the enforcement of the delivery of publications issued in the Colonies. No man was more keenly alive to the importance of the national library containing all the ephemeral literature of our vast Colonial dependencies. He knew how valuable it would be to the future historian of those distant parts of our great Empire, "upon which the sun never sets," that the pamphlets upon local government, and that the statistics of population, education, crime, &c., should be carefully stored among our national archives. The framers of the Copyright Act wisely contemplated this, and provided that publications issued for sale in the Colonies should be delivered at the British Museum within twelve months from the date of their first publication. It is hardly necessary to state that this clause

of the Act has not been always complied with ; not from any desire on the part of the publishers to evade its provisions, as from ignorance of the obligation to do so, and the difficulties connected with the transit, which make this part of the Copyright Act one that needs still further attentive and wise legislation. We may add, however, on this subject, that, for many years past, the authorities at the Colonial Office have instructed the Governors of our several Colonies to send all the *official* publications issued under the auspices of the Government to the Museum. In addition to this, we know that large purchases have been made from time to time of Colonial publications. It is easier and *cheaper* to buy literature of this character than to employ efficient legal aid to compel the delivery of these far distant, but, for that very reason, more valuable portion of our national literature. All that could be done was carefully attended to, both by Mr. Panizzi and also the gentlemen who have, since his time, held the office of Keeper of the Printed Books at the British Museum. It is easy enough for some flippant contributor to our daily or weekly press occasionally to make the broad assertion that *not half the books published under the Copyright Act are to be found in the national library*. Whenever we have heard similar remarks made by word of mouth from any quarter, we have always asked the complainers to put down in writing the titles of the

works referred to; and, in nine cases out of ten, this simple process has been more than enough to put to silence the ignorance of these foolish men. That the Copyright Act, as far as the delivery of publications at the British Museum, is still occasionally evaded, may be true enough; but this remark is applicable also to some extent in the case of every other tax levied by Act of Parliament. We know, from long experience, that every diligence is in daily action in the Copyright Office of the British Museum, carefully to record, and, if necessary, to report to the Keeper of the Printed Books any cases of non-delivery that may occur. It has often occurred to us, when thinking upon the subject, that, as far as regards the delivery of publications at the Museum, it might be made imperative that a copy of every book, piece of music, map, chart, or plan should be delivered at the Copyright Office *before any such publication should be offered for sale*. And, further, that the delivery at the Museum should prove the date of publication, and also ensure the copyright of the same to the rightful owner. We think this simple arrangement would be found to work admirably in every respect, inasmuch as publishers and authors would be only too anxious that their works should be duly registered. The national library, by the insertion of such a clause in the next Copyright Act, would be a great gainer by such a provision; and we happen to know that there is a wide-spread feeling among

the better part of the publishing trade in favour of such an alteration in the present unsatisfactory question of copyright. The subject of copyright is undoubtedly a difficult one; but surely we have members of the Legislature among us who are fully competent to deal with such a question intelligently and effectively, so that the just rights of all parties shall be secured. The subject is one that the writer is so intimately connected with, that he fears to have trespassed at greater length than he ought in throwing out the few suggestions he has ventured to make.

It will be found, whenever the subject is fully gone into, that Mr. Panizzi, and his successor as Keeper of the Printed Books, Mr. Winter Jones, now Principal Librarian, as well as their successors, were all aware of the great importance of not only securing to an author the fruit of his labour, but also that a copy of every publication issued in the British dominions should be found in the library of the British Museum.

To return to the personal history of Mr. Panizzi. At the period we have been speaking of, this gentleman was, perhaps, in the zenith of his power and influence, and brought all the energies of his mind to perfect, as much as possible, the department at the head of which he had been placed. The library every year increased in magnitude and importance, as the Parliamentary annual statements will prove; and it is only fair

to the governing body of the Museum to say that, of late years, they gave Mr. Panizzi and his successors all the support and encouragement that they were able. It is known to every one at all conversant with the politics of the British Museum, that the recommendations, both of its officers and also of the Trustees, are subject to the approval of the Lords of the Treasury before any increase of the annual grant can be brought under the consideration of Parliament.

Next to the Herculean powers of Mr. Panizzi in obtaining from Parliament the promise of an annual grant of no less a sum than £10,000 for ten years, for the necessary augmentation of the national library, is the erection of the new Reading-room. Want of space for the increasing accommodation of the books that were daily flowing from all sources—namely, by donation, by purchase, and by copyright—made it absolutely needful at once to seek for enlargement; and after various schemes had been proposed and rejected, a plan submitted by Mr. Panizzi was finally adopted by the Trustees, and sanctioned by the Lords of the Treasury. This plan comprehended the erection of a new Reading-room, with surrounding accommodation for the increasing library, to be erected in the inner quadrangle of the Museum. This grand scheme was laid before the Trustees on the 5th of May, 1852; and, after full investigation and discussion, was adopted. The excavations were commenced in the month

of May, in 1854; and the first brick was laid in September of the same year. In the month of May, 1857, the beautiful structure was successfully completed. The construction of this wonderful building is *unique*, so that we may be allowed to give some brief details respecting it. The principal apartment is the Reading-room, which is circular. The dome is a hundred and forty feet in diameter, and its height a hundred and six feet. The diameter of the lantern is forty feet. The dome of the room, in its diameter, exceeds all others, with the single exception of the Pantheon at Rome, which is about two feet wider. The surrounding apartments, appropriated to the general library, are twenty-four feet in height, with the exception of that portion which extends round the outside of the Reading-room, which is thirty-two feet high. The spring of the dome is twenty-four feet from the floor, and the ground excavated eight feet below this level. The new Reading-room contains one million two hundred and fifty thousand cubic feet of space, and the surrounding libraries seven hundred and fifty thousand. Upwards of two thousand tons of iron were employed in the construction of the Reading-room and the surrounding libraries. The weight of the materials used in the dome is about four thousand two hundred tons, or upwards of two hundred tons on each of the twenty iron piers by which the dome is supported. The quantity of glass used in its construction

amounts to about sixty thousand superficial feet.

Accommodation is found in this room for three hundred and two readers, each of whom has allotted to him a space of four feet three inches in length by two feet one inch in depth. The reader enjoys almost the privacy of his own room, as he is secured from the opposite occupant by a longitudinal division, which is fitted with a hinged desk, graduated on sloping racks, and a folding shelf for spare books. The framework of each table is of iron, forming air-distributing channels. A tubular footrail also passes from end to end of each table, which may have a current of warm air through it at pleasure, and be used as a foot-warmer, if required. Few, indeed, are the readers who make use of this room that have such accommodation in their own homes. The arrangement of the presses is peculiar throughout the new libraries. The shelves within the Reading-room contain about sixty thousand volumes of more than average size; the new building altogether will accommodate about one million three hundred thousand volumes. The standards of the bookcases are formed of malleable iron, galvanised and framed together, having fillets of beech inserted between the iron to receive the brass pins upon which the shelves rest. The framework of the bookcases forms the support for the iron perforated floors of the gallery avenues, which are generally eight feet wide. The shelves

are formed of iron galvanized plates, edged with wainscot, and covered with russet-hide leather. The building contains three miles lineal of book-cases, eight feet high; assuming them all to be spaced for the size of the average octavo volume, the entire ranges form twenty-five miles of shelves. The inner surface of the dome is divided into twenty compartments by the moulded ribs, which are gilded with leaf prepared from unalloyed gold; the soffites being in ornamental patterns, and the edges touching the adjoining margins fringed with a leaf-pattern scalloped edge. Each compartment contains a window (having double sashes), with hot-water pipes between them, with three panels above, the central one being medallion-shaped; the whole bordered with gilt moulding and lines, and the field of the panels finished in encaustic azure blue, the surrounding margin being of a warm cream colour. The details of the windows are treated in like manner. The moulded rim of the lantern light is painted and gilded to correspond. The sash is formed of gilt moulded ribs, radiating from a central medallion, in which a monogram, formed of the letters V. A. is alternated with the Imperial crown. The cornice from which the dome springs is massive, and almost wholly gilded. Each compartment of the dome is marked by a bold, enriched gilt console, which forms at once the support of the main rib, and the base of a colossal marble statue; a series of which, it was proposed in Mr.

Panizzi's plan, should be placed on the cornice. We have been somewhat careful to describe with minuteness the details of the construction of this elegant room, as the idea and execution are alike *unique*, and will help our readers to form a more intelligent idea of the vastness and magnitude of this addition to the national library. A more perfect success could hardly have been anticipated or desired; and the constant applications for admission, both for the purposes of study, and to view the building, show that both the reading and the sight-seeing public have fully appreciated the boon conferred upon them. The bust of the designer of this noble room and its wondrous adjuncts, executed by the late Baron Marochetti, and placed over the door of the Reading-room, in the passage from the entrance-hall, was a very pleasing memorial from the Department of Printed Books. This bust was paid for by a subscription from every person in that department, no others being allowed to contribute.

We hardly know whether the vastly-increased library—which has grown from two hundred thousand volumes *to more than a million*, and which have been added since Mr. Panizzi was first connected with the library—or whether the new Reading-room, with its thoughtful and beautiful accompaniments, is the greatest and proudest monument to the memory of a man who came to our shores an expatriated exile; and who, by his

indomitable energy and great abilities, has raised himself to a position of eminence scarcely to be excelled ; but they are both great.

In the month of February, 1856, Sir Henry Ellis retired from the service of the Trustees, at a very advanced age, full of honour and respect, and Mr. Panizzi was appointed to succeed him as Principal Librarian ; or, in other words, as the chief officer or administrator of the whole Museum, on the 6th of March following, being about a month before the completion of the new reading-room and libraries. Some wonder, and no little abuse from certain quarters, were expressed at this promotion of Mr. Panizzi ; which, it should be remembered, is in the gift of the Sovereign, all the other appointments being made by the three Principal Trustees. There was no doubt, among those who were sufficiently acquainted with the former career of Mr. Panizzi, that his promotion to the highest position in this great national establishment was as much for the benefit and advantage of the institution, as it was a fitting reward to one who had spent so many years in the service of his adopted country. The matter was broached in both Houses of Parliament in the succeeding session, and only gave an occasion for eminent men of all political shades of opinion to express their high opinion of the great Librarian and the wisdom of the Royal appointment.

On leaving the Department of Printed Books,

where he had spent so many active years of his active life, Mr. Panizzi addressed a characteristic letter to Mr. Winter Jones, who succeeded him in that honourable post. It is with much pleasure that we insert this letter, as it is one of the many instances in which the subject of our sketch was always ready generously to acknowledge the help he had received from those who were associated with him. The letter is dated March 24th, 1856, and is as follows :—

“ I cannot quit the important department which, for the last nineteen years, I have had the honour to direct, without expressing to you, and to those who have so much contributed to augmenting it, and raising it to its present state, my heartfelt thanks for the zealous, intelligent, and unflinching assistance which I have received from all, in the performance of my various duties.

“ It is not for me to say whether this library can challenge comparison ; but this I can truly say—that, having been so nobly seconded, it is not surprising if I have succeeded beyond what I ever ventured to hope in July, 1837.

“ I leave my old department in your hands, confident that its future head will continue to receive from all my late fellow-labourers the support of which I feel so proud ; that, by your united efforts, its usefulness will increase with its extent and its renown, and that you will all receive that meed of approbation which will be due to your untiring and intelligent exertions in the service of the public.

“ Please, my dear Jones, to make these sentiments of mine known to the whole department, and

“ Believe me,

“ Ever truly yours,

“ A. PANIZZI.”

The writer may be permitted to quote a few

of the testimonies to the fitness of Mr. Panizzi for this high position from others that were generously offered at the time of this appointment. The late Dr. Cureton, Royal Trustee at the British Museum, and an eminent Oriental scholar, says, in a letter addressed to the Speaker of the House of Commons:—"You must naturally be most anxious that the vacant office of Principal Librarian should be filled by the most efficient person, who is best qualified to discharge its duties for the advantage of the public. You are, doubtless, fully aware of the long and valuable services of Mr. Panizzi, of his great talents, his extensive knowledge, his ardent zeal and untiring energies, which have been most faithfully exerted during a quarter of a century for the benefit of the British Museum. There is, however, one point respecting him of which you may not have had the means of being so fully informed, but which the constant observation of nearly twenty years has made me well acquainted with: I mean Mr. Panizzi's great administrative powers, and capacity of governing a large body of subordinate persons. I have never known any one in authority so strict and precise in maintaining order and discipline, so rigid and exact in requiring the full amount of duties to be performed, who, at the same time, had the singular happiness of gaining the respect and esteem, and receiving the warm attachment and affection of all those placed under his authority. From my own

experience of thirteen years' service in the British Museum, I am sure that no qualification is more essential to ensure a due performance of public service in such an establishment than this of which I have last spoken."

Another Trustee, Mr. W. R. Hamilton, in writing to the same high authority, says of Mr. Panizzi:—"You will, of course, have heard that there is likely to be very soon an important change in the staff of the British Museum; Sir Henry Ellis, the Principal Librarian, having, after a very long service, given in his resignation; and the choice of one of two persons, named by the Principal Trustees, will fall to the Crown. I know that it is hardly necessary to trouble you on this subject; but I cannot refrain from stating it as my earnest conviction that the name of Mr. Panizzi, now Keeper of the Printed Books Department, ought on every account to be one of the two submitted to the Queen, and I fervently hope he may be so selected. There can be no doubt whatever—and I believe that this is the universal opinion of my co-Trustees—that of all the officers now engaged in the service of the Museum, Mr. Panizzi is by far the most capable, on every imaginable ground, to fulfil efficiently the duties of this situation. To a perfect acquaintance with the general duties of all the different departments, great experience in the details of the management of the establishment, he adds in a peculiar degree great knowledge of mankind,

a most happy mode of extracting from all under him the greatest amount of efficient service, and of exacting the strictest regularity of attendance, great impartiality, a deep sense of moral justice, and an honest devotion of his whole time to the public service. He has also been mainly instrumental in introducing very many of the improvements, by which the service of the Museum has been greatly benefited. He is also most liberal in his views of extending its benefits to the largest number of the public, on the most liberal and safe terms. He must, therefore, be thought fully entitled to the promotion contemplated."

The late Earl of Ellesmere, in a letter to the same personage, writes:—"I understand that the subject of the selection of a successor to Sir Henry Ellis, at the British Museum, is now under consideration. I am entirely ignorant of what claims may be before you for that important succession, and should not think myself warranted by the experience acquired in the chair of the Commission of Inquiry* to obtrude my opinion on their relative merits. That experience, however, I think may justly be expressed in saying this much: that should your choice fall on Mr. Panizzi, I should be prepared to speak of that decision as one, in my opinion, than which no better could be made for the interests of the

* Lord Ellesmere was Chairman to the Royal Commission.

public service, and for those of the subordinate officers of the Museum. The latter are, in my opinion, an interesting class of men ; and I have reason to believe that Mr. Panizzi, in his dealings with those hitherto under his authority, has combined consideration and benevolence with great energy in the exaction of duty."

These are a few specimens of the testimony borne to the merits of Mr. Panizzi, by those who came forward on the occasion to speak of his fitness for the directorship of the increasingly important establishment of the British Museum ; and his subsequent management and control of the affairs of the institution fully justified both the Crown and the Principal Trustees in the choice they had made.

The same energy and ability which marked his career as Keeper of the Printed Books characterised him in the higher office of Principal Librarian. Many subjects out of the ordinary routine of his duties employed his active mind ; and among the more important was the question of space for the constantly-growing collections. He urged the separation of the natural history division from the general collections ; and drew up a plan, embracing alterations and additions to the present buildings of the Museum, to adapt them for the collections of art and literature after the removal of those relating to natural history. These plans were approved and adopted by the Trustees ; but

were, we believe, frustrated and rejected by the Government, on the score, mainly, of the large expenditure involved in the carrying out of the same. The principle has, however, since been recognised by the Lords of the Treasury, and also by the House of Commons; so that, at no very distant period, we may see the two great branches and divisions of the present British Museum so set at liberty, as to be capable of the enlargement and development necessary to keep pace with the requirements of the age. The natural history section of the Museum can have no greater or more distinguished man at its head than its present Superintendent, Professor Owen; and we are certain that the efficient study of this important field for naturalists would be very materially hindered by retaining the collections in the cramped and contracted rooms devoted to them in Great Russell Street. The building now in course of erection for them at South Kensington will give them a capacious home of their own; and Professor Owen will have there ample space to carry out the plans he has so ably advocated when speaking authoritatively of the want of space at the British Museum. Whenever the day comes that this eminent man retires from the staff of the British Museum, he will carry with him to his new sphere of labour and influence the high esteem and profound respect of all who have had the high privilege of being

associated with him. His readiness at all times to impart his vast treasures of scientific lore to less favoured colleagues, and the kindly manner in which he does this will endear him to those whom he will leave behind in the parent institution, where he has for so many years been the distinguished Superintendent of the Natural History Division.

The subject of our brief sketch had always acted with such earnest and energetic purpose in every position that he had filled at the Museum, that it was a matter of much surprise, in 1866, when it was announced that it was his intention to retire from the high position he had so ably filled as Secretary to the Trustees, and Principal Librarian. It had almost been forgotten that, for the long period of thirty-five years, he had applied all the powers of his active and untiring mind to the progressive improvements of the British Museum, and to the increase and development especially of the library. No subject occupied him more entirely than the comfort and convenience of those who frequented the Reading-room; where, since the erection of this present unequalled apartment for study, "the pilgrims of research" have had the opportunity of pursuing their studies with books at their disposal, and luxuries of comfort and accommodation in making use of them, such as are entirely unknown in any large library and reading-room in Europe. We may here remark

that, while the successive Keepers of the Printed Books have done all that was possible towards augmenting the literary stores of the national library, they have, at the same time, always been ready to adopt any improvements in the Reading-room that would in any way increase the comfort of the readers. The ladies especially have had all the kindly consideration and ready help that could be afforded them; and their large and increasing numbers in the Reading-room, where, from day to day, they prosecute their studies, is the best proof how womanly devotion to literature is progressing; and also that ladies of any age beyond that prescribed by the regulations of the Trustees—namely, twenty-one—can, from day to day, prosecute their inquiries, and use their facile pens for the enlightenment and entertainment of the reading public. Few things are more exhilarating than to pass through the well-filled lines of tables, and to see so many fair hands and heads at work. We have known the time, in former years, when the presence of a lady in the Reading-room was a most unusual sight. Miss Harriet Martineau, Mrs. Jameson, the Hon. Mrs. Norton, and a few other strong-minded and yet gentle students in the fields of literature, were occasional visitors; and helped to light up the gloomy apartment. We are sure our fair friends would bear ready testimony, if it were necessary, to the forethought and gallant consideration bestowed upon

their special comfort in the arrangements of the new Reading-room.

It would not be right to omit, in speaking of this magnificent room and its adjuncts, that much discussion has arisen as to the priority of suggestion regarding the utilization of this once unoccupied space. Those who have taken the greatest pains to understand the entire question, and have gone into the subject in all its bearings, will be prepared to divide the honour of the conception, in the first place, and its execution, in the other, to two men, who will be distinguished in connection with the national library as long as literature shall last. The idea of making good use of the space upon which the present room and its surrounding libraries now stand was suggested in a series of papers on the British Museum, which appeared in the *Mechanics' Magazine* for the years 1836 and 1837; and which were subsequently acknowledged to have proceeded from the pen of the late Mr. Thomas Watts, who afterwards became Keeper of the Printed Books. The writer says, in vol. xxvi., p. 457, of the *Mechanics' Magazine*:—
“The space” [referring to the inner quadrangle of the new building, erected from the designs of Sir Robert Smirke,] “thus unfortunately wasted, would have provided accommodation for the whole library. *A Reading-room of ample dimensions might have stood in the centre, and been surrounded on all four sides by galleries for the books, communicating with each other, and lighted from the top.*”

It must be remembered that this proposition of Mr. Watts appeared in the pages of a periodical, which, however valuable in its sphere, was not at all likely to have met the eye of the late Principal Librarian; and it is equally certain to those who knew Mr. Watts that he was the last man to call his attention to the suggestion, nor was he one accustomed to talk much of anything he had himself proposed. The writer remembers a conversation he had with him, subsequently to the controversy, as to the origin of the proposition to build the present Reading-room, in which that gentleman generously remarked to him, with much warmth and emphasis, that "*whoever may have suggested the proposition, it was only such a man as Mr. Panizzi who could have got the project carried out.*" The writer knows also that the admiration of Mr. Watts for the new Reading-room was most enthusiastic; and that he also entertained the highest possible opinion of the constructive ability and Herculean energy of Mr. Panizzi. It is certain, also, that no one, either in the service of the Museum, or among the almost numberless critics who have spoken of this beautiful room, and its marvellously adapted surrounding libraries, would more willingly and sincerely have accorded to Mr. Panizzi the measure of praise due to him for his unparalleled exertions in bringing it into existence than Mr. Watts himself. The future historian of the Museum may possibly have

before him the documentary evidence that may help to a more just solution of this somewhat vexed question than the writer can offer; but, at all events, the public are indebted, both for its origination and also to its erection, with all its princely accommodation and numerous conveniences, to men whose names will ever be had in grateful remembrance by all who take an interest in literature and art.

While speaking of this splendid building, we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of recording the fact that there are other names, besides those we have named, that should never be omitted in connection with the various plans and arrangements that preceded the great undertaking we have been endeavouring to touch upon. Mr. Panizzi's first rough sketch of the proposed room was made on the 18th of April, 1852; and was shown on the following day to Mr. Winter Jones, at that time Assistant-Keeper of the Printed Books, and the present Principal Librarian, and subsequently presented to his old colleague. A lithograph *fac-simile* of it may be seen in the interesting preface, by Mr. Jones, to the *List of the Books of Reference in the Reading-room*, compiled by Mr. W. B. Rye, the present Keeper of the Printed Books. An infinite amount of thought and careful consideration was expended upon the sketch before it was laid before the Board of Trustees; and we are certain that Sir Anthony Panizzi himself would be the first to make

mention of the unwearied help he had, in all that concerned the proposition and working out of the grand scheme, afterwards so successfully accomplished, in his faithful friend and able colleague, Mr. Winter Jones. "From morn to noon, and noon to dewy eve," these two men were closeted together, engaged upon the plans that were necessary before bringing the project, in a tangible form, before the Trustees. In one branch of their labours they had the able assistance of Mr. Charles Cannon, at that time an assistant in the library, and now the worthy successor of the late Mr. Norris, the "Translator," at the Foreign Office. This gentleman, among his other accomplishments, was a good draughtsman, and took Mr. Panizzi's rough sketch home with him one night, and brought it the next morning in a finished state; so that it could be laid before the Trustees, at their first meeting, on the 5th of May following. Mr. Sydney Smirke, the architect to the Trustees, to whom Mr. Panizzi's plans were submitted, had a large share in the accomplishment of the great undertaking. Mr. Fielder, of the firm of Messrs. Baker and Fielder, contractors (the builders of the room), was never absent from the works during the whole course of erection. His skill, perseverance, and ingenious resources were found to be invaluable, and deserve much praise. It is worthy of remark that such a vast and lofty building was completed without the loss of a single life, and

without any serious accident. The warming and ventilating arrangements were most admirably carried out by Messrs. Hadon, of Trowbridge. The metal work was supplied by Mr. Pontifex.

It is not to be wondered at that, when the resignation of Mr. Panizzi was laid before the Trustees, they recommended him for superannuation to the favourable consideration of the House of Commons. The House adopted their recommendation, and embodied their approval in the following resolution, which I copy from Hansard's *Parliamentary Debates* of the 27th July, 1866:—"In consideration of the long and very valuable services of Mr. Panizzi, including, not only his indefatigable labours as Principal Librarian, but also the service which he rendered as architect of the new Reading-room, the Trustees recommend that he should be allowed to retire on full salary, after a discharge of his duties for thirty-four years."

Mr. Lowe, a Trustee of the Museum, had, on the previous day, in moving for the annual grant required for the expenditure of the institution, remarked that the arrangement that Mr. Panizzi should retire on his full salary "was made a year ago; but, at the request of the Government and the Trustees, Mr. Panizzi consented to remain in office for another year; so that for the last twelve months, the country may be said to have had the benefit of his services for nothing. It is creditable to his public spirit that he should have given us his valuable, or rather invaluable,

services for a year after the time when he might have retired on full salary." To this testimony of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer may be added that of Mr. Walpole, also a Trustee of the Museum, who, upon the same occasion, said :—" I may be permitted to pay a tribute to a gentleman of extraordinary talent, who has devoted almost the whole of his life to the promotion of the advantages of the institution over which he had lately presided ; I refer to Mr. Panizzi. It would ill become me to allow these Estimates to pass without paying the tribute, which is so well deserved, to the extraordinary powers of mind of this gentleman, and which have been entirely devoted to the institution of which he has had charge."

When this just and generous resolution of the House of Commons became known, Mr. Sydney Smirke (brother of Sir Robert, who for many years was architect to the Trustees, for the erection of the building now standing on the site of old Montague House, in which office, at his death, Mr. Sydney succeeded him,) wrote to *The Times*, denying that Mr. Panizzi was the architect of the Reading-room, and claiming that honour for himself. To this letter Mr. Panizzi replied, through the same medium, in the following terms, addressed to the editor :—

" SIR,—My impressions of the facts connected with the erection of the New Library and Reading-room at the British Museum differ somewhat from Mr. Smirke's. I never

claimed to be the architect of that building ; what I claim is, to have originated a plan, which has been ably carried out by Mr. Smirke and Mr. Fielder, under my own eyes and constant superintendence, even to its minutest details. My object was to provide a useful building, fit for the reception of a great library, and for the comfortable accommodation of a large number of readers. I believe I have succeeded ; and I am amply rewarded by the praise bestowed on me during more than ten years, without any objection on Mr. Smirke's part."

The subject of our sketch, like all other public men of more than ordinary ability, has had his detractors ; but he has not been without the generous recognition of some of the most distinguished men, as well as having been spoken of in very high terms by various organs of public opinion. I may be permitted to quote from one or two of these sources, by way of illustration. The *Quarterly Review* says of him, in an able article, vol. CIV., p. 206 :—"To this distinguished foreigner England owes a debt of lasting gratitude. By his learning, his sagacity, his energy, and his firmness, he succeeded, in the face of great opposition, in noting and supplying the enormous deficiencies in the numerous different classes of works, and in perfecting the complicated arrangements which so vast a collection entailed. It is doubtful whether any man in Europe possessed the peculiar combination of powers for his position in an equal degree—the knowledge, the bibliographical lore, the administrative talent, the undaunted perseverance, and the ability to expound and enforce his views. He has rendered

the library of the British Museum one of the finest in the world." The same *Review*, in a subsequent article upon the British Museum, vol. CXXIV., pp. 161, 178, 179, says:—"In 1852 the idea of constructing the Reading-room was conceived by Mr. Panizzi; and about 1858 the building issued forth, full grown, from the brain of the British Museum Jupiter, armed at all points against criticism; the largest, best built, best lighted, best arranged, and really the most beautiful apartment the world has yet seen. Moreover, the only structure erected in London, within the memory of man, which has escaped censure." In another part of the same article, the Reviewer remarks:—"We may be permitted to revert more particularly to a distinguished name, which is indissolubly connected with the fame and fortunes of the British Museum, and to which frequent mention has been made in this article. Like a self-satisfied people, as in some respects we are, we have been apt to merge our pride in the possession of Mr. Panizzi, as the head of this national institution, in the admiration of our own good sense in having placed him there. One result of those public Commissions, one compensation for their frequent fruitlessness, is the faithful record they incidentally preserve of the individuality of such men as Mr. Panizzi. In these answers before his peers" [referring to his frequent examinations before the Royal Commissioners, appointed to inquire into the

state and management of the British Museum,] “better than in any writings, speeches, or notes of conversation, posterity will trace the power, judgment, clearness, firmness, and even the wit of the great magnate of learning, who has borne the Museum through stormy times on his Atlas-like shoulders.”

On its becoming known that Mr. Panizzi was about to retire from the office of Principal Librarian, a subscription was set on foot in the Library to present him with some fitting testimonial of the high appreciation of the manner in which his management of the department had been discharged. After some consideration, it was decided that a portrait of the late keeper should be painted by a distinguished artist. Mr. Panizzi was so good as to give Mr. George Frederick Watts, R.A., several sittings, in order that it might be executed forthwith. This admirable portrait, when finished, was exhibited in the Royal Academy in 1868, and is considered to be a good likeness; though to some who knew the subject in the prime and vigour of his active life, it seems somewhat deficient in the expression of his earnest and intellectual countenance. The massive head and the broad features are there; but it needs, in the estimation of those of us who were in daily contact with the man, the sparkle of the keen eye, and the lighting up of the expressive face, that characterized the original. It is undoubtedly the work of a great

artist ; but it wants breathing into it the breath of life to make it stand out as a fitting remembrance of one who was far too remarkable a man to pass anywhere unnoticed, and whose well-known face and form are indelibly impressed upon all who were round about him.

In a matter of this nature it ill becomes one, who knows nothing of art, thus to criticise the work of a distinguished painter ; but I cannot conceal the fact that a first glance at the picture brought with it a feeling of disappointment, that was, I know, shared by many of my fellows. However, the portrait is a most valuable memento of a man who has not only rendered eminent public services, but who is also endeared to many by a thousand kindly recollections, whose pleasure and privilege it was to serve under so able and kind-hearted a chief. As far as the criticism of the portrait is concerned, I am glad to quote the opinion of two gentlemen whose opinion is far more valuable, as art-critics, than the remarks that I have ventured to record.

Mr. Algernon Swinburne, in his *Notes on the Royal Academy Exhibition*, 1868, says, of this presentation portrait :—"I know not if even Mr. Watts has ever painted a nobler portrait than this of Mr. Panizzi ; it recalls the majestic strength and depth of Maroni's work ; there is the same dominant power of hand and keenness of eye, the same breadth and subtlety of touch, the same noble reticence of colour." The other opinion

is from the pen of Mr. W. M. Rosetti, who says, of the same picture in the work above-named:—
“That this is about the finest portrait of the year, need scarcely be specified, Mr. Watts being its author. It was presented to Mr. Panizzi by the officers of the British Museum on his retirement, and happily expresses, in the sitter, great powers of work, long in active exercise, and now in well-earned repose.”

On his final retirement from public life, Mr. Panizzi addressed the following letter to Mr. Winter Jones, his successor in the Principal Librarianship. It is dated from the British Museum, 16th July, 1866:—

“I cannot leave the Museum and close my official connection with those whom I have had the honour and pleasure of serving the Trustees with for so many years, without returning to all and each of them, individually, my warmest thanks for the efficient help which I have received from them in the discharge of my duties.

“Although conscious of having at all times acted to the best of my ability, and only for the advantage of the Museum, and of those connected with it, I wish to add that, if I have ever given unnecessary pain to any one, I regret it most sincerely, and trust that credit will be given me for having been uniformly influenced solely by a sense of public duty.

“Allow me to request that you will bring this communication to the individual knowledge of every person in your department. I shall always take the warmest interest in their future happiness, and shall never cease to feel the sincerest regard for them.

“ Believe me, dear Jones,

“ Yours truly,

“ A. PANIZZI.”

Shortly after the retirement of Mr. Panizzi a question was put by Lord Houghton, in the House of Lords, as to any proposed alteration in the managing body of the Museum. In the course of these conversational remarks, Lord Houghton said that "the Principal Librarian of the British Museum was really at the head of the whole of that establishment, and was the life and soul of its administration. . . . When Mr. Panizzi was appointed to his office several years ago, he (Lord Houghton) called attention to that appointment in the other House; and he did so because, notwithstanding the respect which he entertained for the character and abilities of Mr. Panizzi, he thought that, in the present dearth of honours and emoluments for literary men in this country, such an office ought to have been conferred by her Majesty's Government on some gentleman not of foreign extraction. He still adhered to that opinion, although he believed that the administration of that gentleman had been one of considerable efficiency." Earl Russell said, in reply:—"With regard to the appointment of Mr. Panizzi, to which the noble Lord had referred, he believed that it was a wise appointment. He was a man of great ability and acquirements, and had conducted the affairs of the Museum, as far as they belonged to his department, under the direction of the Trustees, very much to his own credit, and to the advantage of the public." Lord

Taunton remarked that "he scarcely thought it consistent with the famed hospitality of this country to object to a gentleman of ability on the ground that he was a foreigner." This was followed by Earl Stanhope, who said that "he also desired to bear his testimony to the great merits and services of Mr. Panizzi. He thought it was impossible for any man to have applied himself to the duties of his office with more zeal, more ability, and more unremitting attention than that gentleman had done. He should add that he could not but think that, in the selection of such an officer, all that the Government had to do was to look out for the most competent person; and that the fact of a man being a foreigner ought to be no reason for not accepting his services."*

It is seldom that any public servant has been so happy as to find his services so recognised by men of all political opinions; and it is a remarkable fact that, through Mr. Panizzi's long career as an official man, no attack has ever been made upon him, where reply was proper, that has not given an occasion for some distinguished man to defend his good name, and offer, at the same time, a willing testimony to the value of his services to the public.

Few men have enjoyed so high a social position as the subject of this brief and imperfect sketch. Many of his early contemporaries have long since

* Hansard's *Parliamentary Debates*, Feb. 12, 1866.

passed away. The gatherings at Holland House, where Mr. Panizzi was rarely or ever absent, included men of the highest position as statesmen, orators, poets, wits, and in literature. To mention a few of them is only to be reminded that they are gone. Lord and Lady Holland, Lord Brougham, Lord Jeffrey, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Macaulay, Sydney Smith, Samuel Rogers, Tom Moore, Mr. Hallam, Lord Melbourne, Lord Palmerston, Thackeray, and others that come to our recollection, have all passed away. The bare mention of such names is sufficient to remind any one that the high social position of Mr. Panizzi was such that few men have enjoyed. The dinners at Mr. Grenville's were equally remarkable for the intellectual galaxy that surrounded that venerable and honoured man, who, in the quietude of his choice and almost unequalled library, delighted to call around him the choice spirits of the age, and entertain them with a bounteous hospitality, at once liberal and refined. At Mr. Grenville's dinner-parties Mr. Panizzi met most of the celebrities of the day; of these but few, very few, now remain. Earl Russell, Lord Stanhope, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Delemere, Sir David Dundas, Mr. Gladstone, and one or two more, are all that we can number. May these be spared for many years, though Earl Russell and Sir David Dundas carry us back to a political period beyond the personal recollections of most of our readers. Mr. Gladstone has all the fire and energy of his

more youthful days; and may, we trust, be spared to do nobler things than any that he has already accomplished.

Mr. Panizzi, on leaving his official residence at the Museum, removed to Bloomsbury Square, where, surrounded by some of his much-loved books and friends, he enjoys the rest and leisure so well earned, and so much needed :

“ Where may he live to crown
A youth of labour with an age of ease.”

The honorary degree of D.C.L. was conferred on him by the University of Oxford; the honour of knighthood was offered to him some years since, but was then respectfully declined. He was, however, gazetted on the 27th of July, 1869, as Sir Anthony Panizzi, K.C.B.

It has been truly remarked that “Mr. Panizzi has been so much occupied in providing literary materials for others, that he has had little leisure for literary labours himself.” His works are :—

1. *An Elementary Italian Grammar*. London, 1828. 12mo.
2. *Extracts from Italian Prose Writers*. London, 1828. 12mo.
3. *Orlando Innamorato di Bojardo, Orlando Furioso di Ariosto; with an Essay on the Romantic Narrative Poetry of the Italians, Memoirs, and Notes*. 9 vols, London, 1830-34. 8vo.
4. *Sonetti e Canzone di Bojardo; edited, with Notes*. London, 1835. 4to. *Printed for private circulation*.
5. *On the Supply of Printed Books from the Library to the Reading-*

room. London, 1846. 8vo. *Printed for private circulation.* 6. *A Short Guide to that Portion of the Printed Books* [in the British Museum] *now open to the Public.* London, 1851. 12mo. 7. *Chi era Francesco da Bologna?* London, 1858. 16mo. An essay to prove that Francesco da Bologna, the artist who cut the types for Aldus, was the celebrated painter, Francia. *Printed for private circulation.* 8. *Le prime quattro edizioni della Divina Commedia; letteralmente ristampate per cura di G. G. Warren, Lord Vernon; edited by A. Panizzi.* London, 1858. Folio. He has also written a few controversial pamphlets on the Royal Society, and contributed not a few articles to the *Quarterly, Edinburgh, Foreign Quarterly, British and Foreign Quarterly,* and *North British Reviews.*

The writer would not omit to record Mr. Panizzi's readiness at all times to give his powerful help, in obtaining for the ill-paid subordinates in his department an increased salary for their services. This question of remuneration at the British Museum has, from the commencement of the writer's connection with the institution, always been a serious matter to married officials; who have not only to provide the necessaries, if not the comforts, of home, and secure the necessary education for their children, but also to appear as gentlemen at their daily work, and keep out of debt. When Mr. Panizzi was examined before the Royal Commissioners upon the

question of salaries at the British Museum, he remarked:—"Everybody is badly paid in my department but myself." It is to his exertions mainly that the salaries of the establishment have been, to some extent, increased; although there is a very pressing necessity that still further improvements in that direction should be made. It is not too much to affirm that the comparative scale of salaries before 1857, and that subsequently adopted by the Lords of the Treasury and the Trustees of the Museum, was due to the sole influence of Mr. Panizzi; whose generous labours in that direction will never be fully known, and, consequently, never recognised as they deserve. In this important matter, the writer is happy to record the fact that the present Principal Librarian is as anxious as was his predecessor that a more just and liberal remuneration should be granted to men who have done so much to make this National Institution what it now is—"one of the greatest seats of learning in England."

Such, in brief, has been the career of the eminent man that I have endeavoured, to the best of my ability, to delineate, in this very imperfect and fragmentary sketch. My humble labours may help others more gifted than the writer in putting before the world the life of Sir Anthony Panizzi in a manner that shall be commensurate with his great attainments and valuable services, rendered to the public through

a long and eventful series of years. It would have been alike easy and pleasant to have extended this sketch; but a desire to be as brief as possible has induced the writer to withhold much that would be interesting. It is not to be wondered at that a man of Mr. Panizzi's earnest temperament and great conscientiousness, holding the high official position that he did for so many years, should have made himself obnoxious to some who have served under him, or, in some way or other, have come into collision with him. The writer may be permitted to say, and he does it with all sincerity, that his own personal experience of Mr. Panizzi has been that, while he was a strict and inflexible disciplinarian in his management of the library, he, at the same time, exercised a gentle and even tender consideration towards those who were his subordinates, that produced in not a few of them a feeling of admiration and esteem, and also one of very affectionate respect.





BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

*Lately Published by Messrs. BENTLEY and SON, Publishers
in Ordinary to Her Majesty. Printed at the Chiswick
Press in demy 8vo. Price Fourteen Shillings.*

*Dedicated, by permission, to the Trustees of the British
Museum.*

MEMORIES
OF
THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Every man is a debtor to his profession, from the which as men do, of course, seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves, by way of amends, to be a help thereunto.—LORD BACON.

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up the remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought.
SHAKSPERE'S *Sonnets*.

SELECTIONS FROM NOTICES OF THE PRESS, ETC.

An exhaustive account of the rise and progress of the British Museum, from a competent pen, cannot fail to interest every reader of English books. Such a work is Mr. Robert Cowtan's *Memories of the British Museum*. He is one of the oldest members of the Museum staff, having entered it in the year 1835. He is probably one of the most zealous servants of that great national establishment. He writes of it with an enthusiasm which it is

pleasant to witness. . . . It only remains for us to thank Mr. Cowtan for the mass of useful details he has brought together, to praise the tone and the manner in which he has stated them, to congratulate the Trustees of the Museum upon having in their service so diligent and useful a servant as he has proved himself to be, and to recommend those among our readers who take a natural and commendable interest in the great National Library, to turn to Mr. Cowtan's book for instructive details as to its establishment, progress, and present condition. — *The Daily News*.

The Library and the Reading-Room are the scenes whence the reminiscences of Mr. Cowtan have been derived. He joined the staff of that noble institution in 1835, and has risen, by industry and attention to his duties, to the rank of an assistant in that department. In the thirty-six years which have elapsed since his first appointment, Mr. Cowtan has seen many changes both of men and things in the British Museum, and he has been induced to embody his recollections in the present volume. — *The Times*.

These *Memories* are confined almost entirely to the Library of the Museum, in which Mr. Cowtan holds a post. The book is chiefly interesting for the variety of statistics it contains, and for the clear and concise way in which the writer has extracted the pith of voluminous official documents. . . . Mr. Cowtan's volume embraces a considerable period of time, for he commenced his official duties in 1835, when the National Collection was contained in Montague House, and he has many recollections to record of men who directly or indirectly are known to fame.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

Mr. Cowtan has added some pleasant chapters to the history of the Museum. There is a great variety of information in it, apart from what may be described as amusing. —*The Athenæum*

Mr. Cowtan deserves our best thanks for his interesting volume.—*The Literary World*.

Mr. Cowtan has been for forty years in the service of the Trustees of the British Museum, and is, therefore, well qualified by familiar knowledge for the task which he has here taken upon himself. In a pleasant piquant way he tells the story of the Museum, interspersing his account of purchases, arrangements, and changes, with anecdotes and characterizations of persons connected with its history. The book is chatty, quaint, and charming. Few who take it up will be disposed to put it down before it is finished. We wish we could have enriched our pages by some of its facts and anecdotes.—*British Quarterly Review*.

We congratulate Mr. Cowtan on having produced a very readable book about matters of keen interest to literary men. It evinces a large amount of painstaking research, and the result, we should think, can be no less gratifying to the frequenters of the British Museum Library than to his own colleagues. Luxuriously printed at the Chiswick Press, tastefully bound, and ornamented with a good portrait of Sir Anthony Panizzi, photographed from Marochetti's bust, *Memories of the British Museum* is a book that does great credit to its author, publisher, and printer.—*The Civilian*.

Mr. Cowtan has a claim, founded upon a long and honourable connection with our great National Institution, to appear as its historian. Connected with it since 1835, he has seen the Library emerge from the obscurity and comparative littleness of those days to the great place which it now occupies. Mr. Cowtan's volume, indeed, contains a mass of information respecting the Museum and Library, much of which is quite new, and is well worth preserving. There are many personal reminiscences scattered throughout the book, which serve not only to lighten its pages, but to make the general reader acquainted with the inner life of a great public institution, and with some account of its chief officials during the last forty years.

The work will be read with interest by many who have never been among that company of silent readers under the great glass roof in Bloomsbury, which is to be seen there every day on which the Library is open; whilst to the "Readers" themselves it will, we need scarcely say, convey much information that they will be glad to possess.—*Leeds Mercury*.

The best commentary upon all the vexed questions of bibliothecal economy can hardly be looked for with better success than in the history of the Department of Printed Books in the British Museum during the last half century. A clear view of the inside management can now be derived from a pleasant volume, entitled *Memories of the British Museum*, by one of its faithful servants, Mr. Robert Cowtan, which the latest steamer from England has brought us.—*The Boston Daily Advertiser, U.S.*

I have read with very much pleasure your interesting and instructive, well and variously-filled work.—*Professor Owen, Superintendent of the Department of Natural History, British Museum.*

I have just read your truly interesting and ably written volume, with which I am quite charmed, and congratulate you heartily upon it.—*James Orchard Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., &c.*



*Shortly will be Published a Second Edition, Revised, with a
Portrait of the Author.*

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF A "MAN OF KENT."

1817—1872.

"The true every-day life of the most ordinary man is one of the most instructive and interesting of all studies. Common-place lives are more instructive than exceptional ones."

"The story of my life
From year to year."

SELECTIONS FROM NOTICES OF THE PRESS
AND OPINIONS OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE
FIRST EDITION OF THE WORK.

Under the name of the Autobiography of a "Man of Kent," we have one of those pleasantly garrulous books in which an educated man dilates upon the actual experiences and impressions of his life. He is from first to last communicative, and talks sensibly and liberally of whatever he has seen. This is a fresh and manly book, in which the author goes over the story of his life, partly for his own amusement and the entertainment of his friends, but much more with a view of helping younger men than himself, by showing in what way he cleared his mind of the doubts and difficulties that now-a-days force themselves upon the consideration of every independent thinker; and how, having built up his principles, and marked out his course in life, he worked up towards his ideal, and sought to do

his best for the promotion of the general good. All sorts of matters are discussed, and many of them very well, in this gossiping volume.—*Examiner*.

The "Man of Kent," is an amusing mixture of shrewdness in many practical matters, and of very vivacious opinions on more speculative questions. His autobiography might be effectively used by the next writer who desires to paint a genuine specimen of our middle classes.—*Saturday Review*.

This autobiography is the production of a man who has a story to tell, and who knows how to tell it. The book contains some highly interesting chapters. The period over which these memories extend witnessed some of the most stirring events of the present century; and the county of which the author is "a man" certainly had its share of them. His accounts of the rick-burning, machine-breaking, and election riots of the anti-reform era are very graphic; while his description of the Canterbury Cathedral services, and the society of the ancient city, is such as to make us devoutly thankful for the altered state of things. Having spent his youth in the Cathedral city, the author removed to London. He was as observant of life there as he had heretofore been in the country. This book will well repay attentive perusal, and we are sure that any of our readers who may get it upon our recommendation will thank us for bringing it under their notice.—*British Quarterly Review*.

The "Man of Kent" who writes this autobiography is still living. The description of his schools and schoolmasters, and his various escapades; of Canterbury in the good old coach-days; of the excitement in the time of the Reform Bill, when good Dr Howley, the archbishop, was mobbed in the streets of the city, are graphic and amusing.—*Nonconformist*.

The author of this anonymous autobiography is, we understand, a gentleman who has long held an important position in the Library of the British Museum, and who,

being debarred by failing health from those walks of usefulness which he used to traverse with pleasure when relieved from official duty, has found vent for the energy of his mind in the composition of the handsome volume now before us. It is written so agreeably that the reader finds himself carried on with pleasure from page to page.—*Christian News.*

I was much interested by your book. — *Earl Russell, K.G., Trustee of the British Museum, &c.*

I have already looked into your book, and feel sure that I shall be greatly interested by it.—*Right Rev. Samuel Wilberforce, D.D., successively Bishop of Oxford and of Winchester, Trustee of the British Museum, &c.*

My wife is reading to me many interesting discoveries from your book.—*Very Rev. Henry Alford, D.D., late Dean of Canterbury.*

Your book is most interesting. Your notice of St. Augustine's Monastery greatly pleased me.—*A. J. Beresford Hope, Esq., M.P., &c.*

It is a simple, well-told tale of a man and a Christian ; honourable in every way to your head and heart. I greatly admire the frankness, modesty, and open-heartedness of your confessions. You have done your work with honesty and discretion.—*Martin F. Tupper, Esq., D.C.L., Author of "Proverbial Philosophy," &c.*

Your book seems a very agreeable one. I have looked through great part of it, and have found pleasant reading throughout. — *Marmaduke B. Sampson, Esq., Consul Argentine Republic, Writer of the "City Article" in the "Times," &c.*

I have had the pleasure of receiving your extremely interesting and well-written book.—*J. O. Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., &c.*

I am very pleased with what I have read of your book.—*Sidney Cooper, Esq., A.R.A., &c.*

You have produced a remarkably interesting and

